

THE  
"ORPHAN  
BATTERY"

AND OPERATIONS

128TH U. S. FIELD ARTILLERY



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THE  
"ORPHAN BATTERY"  
AND OPERATIONS

128th U. S. Field Artillery  
(1st Missouri F. A.)

With Notes on the Organization of Which  
Battery E Became a Part, and Various  
Commentary Extracts.

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Compiled by  
LESLIE L. BUCKLEW  
With Contributions by Members of the Battery

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*Dedicated*  
*To the Memory of*  
*Our Comrade*  
*Robert F. Clemments,*  
*Wounded Sept. 26, 1918,*  
*Died Oct. 2, 1918,*  
*In the Argonne.*

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Battery A."*

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*Activity is over, but duty remains.*



## FOREWORD

As time passes, and we hold more dear the experiences and associations of the past, this offering is made with a view of bringing together facts and reminiscences, which it is hoped will keep vivid the memorable days of comradeship in an organization in which I consider I was most fortunate to have served.

L. L. Bucklew,

Kansas City, Mo.

May 16th, 1919







Band, 128th U. S. F. A.





All jolly good fellows.



## CHAPTER I.

### Antecedents, 1812 to 1916

In all things there must be a beginning; therefore, for a history of this battery we must go back to the first known artillery organization in Missouri. From 1812 to 1916, over one hundred years, brief extracts are here quoted from Vol. 2, No. 4, Missouri Historical Society Collections (Courtesy of Col. Warner) :

#### War of 1812.

“The first mention of an artillery company in St. Louis, that I have found, is contained in a letter now in the possession of this Society, written by one John Sparks, to his kindred in New Town, N. Y., giving a description of life in St. Louis, in 1812.

“The Missouri Gazette of Saturday, August 22, 1812, says, ‘St. Louis now boasts of one troop of horse \* \* one company of rifle-

men \* \* one company of artillery, now organizing, \* \*'

### Mexican War 1846-7.

"President Polk ordered Gen. Kearny to raise over three thousand volunteers, of which the Governor called on St. Louis County to furnish the artillery. \* \* The meeting of the recruits was held May 28, 1846, in the office of a Justice of the Peace, over a blacksmith's shop on Third St., between Pine and Olive. Here was organized Battery A Missouri Light Artillery \* \*. Each artilleryman was required to furnish himself with a good horse, saddle, clothing and in fact everything but arms \* \*. On June 13, 1846, a crowd of citizens assembled on the Levee to see the men of Battery A, 105 strong, embark for Leavenworth \* \* which, with the few regulars then stationed at Leavenworth, would form a column to be known as the 'Army of the West'. This small force was to cross the plains and take possession of Santa Fe as a center of operations \* \*. On the 4th of July they struck the Santa Fe trail \* \*. On account of the scarcity of provisions the ration was cut down to flour alone \* \*. While at Bent's Ford the battery received a supply of mules to fill the places of the many horses that

the fatigue of the march had killed off. Out of the hundred fine cannon horses originally supplied not over forty were left \* \*. The column took a route that led within sight of Pike's Peak, then across the Arkansas River and over the Raton Range \* \*. Arriving at Santa Fe on August 18th they covered the distance of nearly nine hundred miles across the plains in a month and a half \* \*, Col. Doniphan of Missouri remaining in command of the volunteers. (see semi-official report of the Battle of Braceto, 1st Lt. C. H. Kribben Mo. Light Art.)

"The men who boasted a pair of shoes were to be envied. A few fortunate ones had secured suits of buckskin from the Indians. The soldiers had received no pay and had spent all their brass buttons.

"On February 1st, 1847, Battery A, its strength increased to one hundred and fifty men by drafts on Fischer's battery, reached El Paso with four brass six pounders and two twelve pound howitzers. With the column now swelled to a thousand men Col. Doniphan crossed the Rio Grande \* \* (official report of the battle of Sacramento, Col. A. W. Doniphan). Note: the following is relative to returning:

"At the Rio Grande the artillerymen took steamboat down the river reaching the mouth in four days \* \* were mustered out of the

service at New Orleans, and came by steamboat to St. Louis, arriving on July 3, 1847 \* \*. Thus ended the wonderful Doniphan Overland Expedition \* \* one of the most remarkable feats in military history \* \* and most remarkable of all as the longest march of field artillery in all annals of warfare, although the achievement is almost forgotten now, and is barely mentioned in current histories. William Cullen Bryant, in 1847, writing for the New York Evening Post, said no expedition in history was at all comparable to it, except that of Xenophon, when he led the Greek Army across Asia Minor, through the plains of the Euphrates, to Babylon, and back over high lands of Armenia to Constantinople, a distance not two thirds as great. \* \* Of the four Mexican cannon brought back \* \* two now flank the terrace in front of the Capitol at Jefferson City.

#### The Southwest Expedition, 1860.

“The eight hundred troops ordered out by the Governor included the Missouri Light Artillery of St. Louis \* \* .

#### Civil War Batteries, 1861-5.

“After the opening of the Civil War and dur-

ing it, many batteries organized in St. Louis or by St. Louisians in the field on both the Union and Confederate sides \* \* a brief mention of the most important will be given \* \*. Confederates: Guibor's Battery \* \* . Union: First Missouri Light Artillery \* \* , Second Missouri Artillery \* \* , Landgraber's Battery \* \* also First Missouri Flying Artillery \* \* Confederates who dubbed its Captain the 'Flying Dutchman.'

#### The Simpson Battery, 1868-75

#### The Provisional Battery, 1877.

#### Light Battery A National Guard of Mo. 1877-98.

"The first permanent quarters of the battery was established in the old Armory building at Fourth and Washington Ave. \* \* In 1880 a serious fire \* \* moved to 19th and Pine, but that, too, caught fire \* \* after the guns were parked in a vacant lot \* \* .

"With veteran soldiers as its founders Battery A naturally became a well-disciplined soldiering body. Capt. Squires seems to have instilled into the men an enthusiasm, *esprit de corps*, or whatever it may be that holds together a volunteer company.



"During the eighties competitive drills among the National Guard companies were in vogue \* \* . The St. Louis Battery won a great many trophies, among them prizes in contests at St. Louis, Nashville, New Orleans, Houston, Jacksonville and Kansas City.

### Spanish War 1898.

"The outfit went into camp at Jefferson Barracks \* \* May 16, they boarded cars for Chickamauga \* \* Gen. Miles was about to shift the seat of war to the Island of Porto Rico \* \* Battery A prepared to join the expedition \* \* on the morning of July 24th. \* \* The battery sailed from Newport News on the 'Roumanian' and it is the story of a cattle boat \* \* for over a week \* \* Gen. Brooke was awaiting the artillery before beginning the advance from Arroyo to San Juan \* \* Gen. Brooke received news of the protocol as the battery was preparing to open fire \* \* . Returned to the States on 'Concho', arriving in New York Sept. 15, 1898 \* \* . On Nov. 30th \* \* mustering out ceremony was performed.

"A number of generous citizens in fall of 1898 subscribed liberally to the Armory Building Fund \* \* . The battery then had a fine home on Grand Ave., where its efficiency was



preserved by its Captain, Frank M. Rumbold, who served in the Philippines and was also Adjutant General of Missouri."

### Mexican Border, 1916

Battery A again entered Federal Service, leaving St. Louis June 20th, 1916, arriving at Laredo, Texas, July 4th. Finished their Border Service about December 15th, and were mustered out at Ft. Riley, Kansas, arriving in St. Louis, December 23rd, 1916.



## CHAPTER II.

## Organization and Roster Battery "E".

On July 19th, 1917, after a conference between Frank M. Rumbold, commanding the regiment of artillery organizing in St. Louis, and Karl D. Klemm, commanding the regiment of artillery organizing in Kansas City, L. L. Bucklew was requested to raise a battery in Kansas City which was to become Battery "E" of the St. Louis regiment. Work was started the following day, and though recruiting was going on for three other regiments, naval service, regular army, aviation and an ambulance unit the battery accepted 139 men and was mustered into the State Guard on July 27th, 1917, in Convention Hall as Battery E, 1st. Missouri Field Artillery.

This Roster contains the names of every one who was in the battery, though there were some whom we regret were not with us during the entire time of our service:

**Captain**

L. L. Bucklew

**Lieutenants**

Beals, Herbert J.	Ramsey, J.
Beaver, Fred H.	Reilly, Edw. C.
Buckley, William J.	Sawyer, Alfred L.
Butts, Edward S.	Strecker, Arthur T.
Dinkins, William T.	Stubbs, S. O.
DeHoog, Raymond E.	Thomas, Chester I.
Gheen, Russell T.	Thorburn, Fred T.
Hoffman, G.	Weed, James A.
Mars, Chester L.	Winkler, Frank E.
McMurray, Robt. J.	Wright, Arthur
Pickrell, Chas. U.	Zumwalt, Fred L.

**1st Sergeants**

Kempton, Leonard H.   Snyder, Joyce R.

**Sergeants**

Anderson, E. E.	Campbell, Edw. R.
Baldwin, A. Brown	Carey, Dennis J.
Beyer, Romaine	Ching, Earl R.
Brady, Chas. A.	Chenoweth, R. B.
Breitag, Arthur H.	Compton, Chas. A.
Brock, Buford B.	Feinor, G. H.
Browning, Robt. E.	Fletcher, Rollie E.

**Sergeants—Continued**

Gattrell, William S.	Matherly, Marvin P.
George, Edwin A.	Mohart, Chas. T.
Githens, Fred C.	Mulford, Floyd H.
Hartnett, Paul F.	Severance, Horace W.
Howard, Orville A.	Thompson, Jas. G.
Johns, Harry C.	Vasey, Earl L.
Johnson, Geo. E.	Webb, William G.
King, Jas. W.	Ziegler, Herbert F.
Madigan, John B.	

**Corporals**

Abbott, Ruvia A.	Dierkes, E. J.
Alexander, Karl V.	Driemeyer, A. J.
Barnby, Arch W.	Fritsche, John W.
Bell, Rowan J.	Dietzel, Louis H.
Bollin, Frank J.	Dorman, Lee C.
Bowling, Thos. E.	Gibson, John W.
Burke, Geo. T.	Hogan, Edw. D.
Burke, Jerome J.	Hubbard, Andrew F.
Carpenter, Walton	Langston, Ira
Cirkal, Jos. A.	Leeman, Prehm F.
Cirkal, Robt. G.	Little, Chas. A.
Chenoweth, S. D.	Mackintosh, T. E.
Claypool, Hugh	Maluy, W. B.
Coddington, David I.	Miller, Jessie L.
Cook, Chas. S.	Morgan, Jas. R.
Davies, Jos. O.	Naumann, S. J.

**Corporals —Continued**

Newcomer, Guy B.	Rotemund, Frank
Pickens, Wm. C.	Seath, Walter
Purdy, Leslie L.	Strader, W. E.
Rafiner, E. L.	Taliaferro, Ben T.
Rigdon, E.	Wimer, L. C.
Rothgeb, Roy R.	Williams, Stanley

**Chief Mechanics**

Geenans, August	Noland, Jas. L.
Hartness, Ralph	

**Cooks**

Brown, Jas. J.	Harris, Raymond
Carpenter, W. B.	Roasa, C. A.
Charleville, Jos. A.	Smith, Edw. D.
Groves, John	Smith, Leroy

**Horseshoers**

Boes, Thos. E.	Kirk, Jas. D.
Holmes, Mosie M.	Kubena, Frank W.

**Farrier**

Taylor, L. E.

**Mechanics**

Fallert, Frank J.	Stanford, Edw. H.
McInturff, Eugene	Maxwell, Stanley

**Saddler**

Langstaff, Wm.

**Buglers**

Ellings, Sam'l R.	Pottorff, Woodson
Geenans, Chas.	Shore, M. L.
Page, F. S.	Thatcher, C.
Pool, G. C.	Wood, Walter B.

**Privates**

(Including Wagoners and First-Class Privates)

Anderson, Arthur	Cagnizi, Luigi
Anderson, Wm.	Carden, J. W.
Barnett, Earl	Carron, Thos. P.
Baucom, Floyd F.	Carver, Joe.
Bennett, J. W.	Casey, Chas. T.
Bigus, I. L.	Clifford, Harry
Bilyeu, Claude J.	Curry, Geo. L.
Bomar, Robt. H.	Cezkawski, B.
Bowers, W. W.	Chambers, Leroy P.
Buckrucker, Fred C.	Chastain, Roy C.
Butcher, Chas. T.	Clanton, W. S.
Brigman, Lee	Clemments, Robt. F.
Buckholtz, John J.	Connors, Thos. J.
Burkhart, Walter	Conrick, Robt. F.
Burks, J. A.	Costello, Jos.
Bush, J. L.	Coulter, Robt. C.

## Privates—Continued

Dalton, Chas. M.	Graham, Floyd E.
Dames, Henry J.	Grass, L. L.
Danner, Edw. A.	Greaves, R. B.
DeHart, Paul E.	Grebe, Aug.
Dettling, Mat	Gregg, W. V.
Demeke, C. E.	Guedry, Chas. A.
Dillon, Geo. B.	Guethley, F. G.
Dobinson, E. J.	Hanover, Ross N.
Duckworth, Cutch	Hargrove, J. D.
Durrett, P. B.	Harrington, O. C.
Duncan, Lee	Harrison, E. C.
Dvorak, Jos. J.	Harrison, J. N.
Donka, Geo.	Hartstack, A. R.
Eli, Henry W.	Hassel, C. J.
Fairleigh, Aug.	Hatton, Rufus
Field, A. H.	Haupt, R. F.
Flemming, L. F.	Heaton, Guy V.
Flesh, Wm. A.	Hedkamp, Victor
Frericks, J. F.	Heede, Edw. O.
Franke, H. H.	Hennaberry, M. J.
Friend, R. D.	Hoffman, H. D.
Fick, John	Hollingshead, G. S.
Gall, Seymour B.	Holt, Geo. W.
Gee, Merrill H.	Hopple, Raymond E.
Gentry, G. R.	Horrigan, J. D.
Gibbs, Winn	Horner, W. W.
Gladish, H. E.	Hostutler, John E.
Gladstone, A.	Jasse, J. P.



## Privates—Continued

Jeck, A. C.	Lewis, A. C.
Johnson, C. E.	Lewis, Frank
Johnson, W.	Leinback, W. A.
Kahanek, Frank A.	Linke, E. O.
Kainer, Otto H.	Linsley, M. G.
Kassel, V.	Lirette, A. H.
Keel, Robt. R.	Little, J. E.
Kelly, Henry G.	McKinstry, G. C.
Kessler, Paul	Marshall, Robt. H.
Keyser, W. J.	Maxville, W. D.
Kimbriel, D. H.	Mayhill, R. P.
King, Orvill	Mikesell, L. G.
Kinser, D. B.	Miller, John G.
Knox, C. W.	Miller, J. J.
Kretzer, E. L.	Morgan, Edw. V.
Kutac, C.	Murphy, D. A.
Lane, Walter	Murray, Frank
Lang, Roger	Nay, Leon
Langford, Tom R.	Noggle, L.
Lashbrook, Mal J.	Obendorff, Aug.
Laskey, H. M.	Olson, Wm. L.
Lawrence, G. J.	Palmer, A. O.
Lawson, W. H.	Parker, H. J.
Leatherwood, W. M.	Peake, W. M.
Lee, Ernest	Pirtle, R. W.
Lee, Thom. M.	Pope, L. W.
Leitner, F.	Porche, J. E.
Lewis, W. C.	Powell, D. H.

## Privates—Continued

Purcell, L. W.	Scarborough, M. M.
Rains, H. L.	Schnebeli, J.
Randell, A. O.	Schoen, Carl
Raybrook, E. J.	Schreiber, H.
Rea, Wm. C.	Schroeder, Fritz
Redona, Juan B.	Schultz, P.
Rector, J. P.	Selkirk, Ben
Reeves, Curtis O.	Shanklin, H. E.
Rice, F. L.	Spurlock, A. H.
Richmond, M. I.	Stoenner, E. D.
Riley, C. A.	Strother, W. L.
Rittenberry, C. L.	Sutton, Wm. E.
Roddam, Ross	Thayer, F. D.
Roof, Walter M.	Thorpe, J.
Rosa, Agapito M.	VanDenBussell, Paul
Rundell, H. O.	VanWallegham, M.
Russell, W. W.	Watson, Melvin
Ryza, Emil A.	Weeks, J. W.
Safford, John B.	West, R.
Sargeant, Dean R.	

## CHAPTER III.

## Record of Stations and Movements

On August 5th, 1917, by executive order dated Aug. 3rd, the entire National Guard was inducted into the Federal Service and by Gen. Order No. 5, A. G. O., State of Missouri, troops ordered to their camps; Battery "E" camping opposite the fire station at Admiral and Lydia Ave., Kansas City, Mo., until ordered to precede the regiment to Camp Doniphan (Ft. Sill) Okla., leaving Kansas City Aug. 23rd, arriving at Fort Sill the 25th, 3:40 A. M. Quarters were not complete and the battery was camped on North side of area, moving to the South (artillery) area Sept. 21st. The remainder of the regiment arriving September 30th, 1917.

The intervening period prior to leaving for Camp Mills, Long Island, N. Y., May 10th, 1918, was one of hard work for everyone.

On May 20th, 1918, the battery sailed from New York on H. M. S. "Saxonia."

June 5th, disembarked at Tilbury Dock (South London) England. We boarded train for Winchester. On the 7th we resumed travel by rail to Southampton and boarded a small channel steamer crossing to La Havre, France, that night, spending the following day and night on heights above that city. The 9th we were loaded in box cars and journeyed to Montriél-Belfroi (near Angers), from there the battery marched to Chevalier Farm.

July 9th the regiment entrained for Guer, from which point they marched to Camp Coetquidan, where years ago the great Napoleon had a camp. July 16th the first firing was done with the French guns, and realistic work carried on energetically until Aug. 15th when we took train for the Vosges Mts. (Gerardmer) passing through Versailles, and back of the lines southwest of Chateau Thierry.

Here follows extracts from Condensed Operations Report, from August 7th, 1918, to March 6th, 1919.

"Per Par. 3, Field Order No. 23, Hdqrs. 35th Division, 16th Aug. 1918, upon arrival of the regiment in Gerardmer and vicinity the batteries were billeted for forty-eight hours' rest. Regl. Hdqrs., Hdqrs. Co., Supply Co., Infirmary with batteries A and B billeted in Gerardmer, batteries C and D at La Tholy and batteries E

and F at La Forge. In compliance with the same order the regiment made ready to relieve artillery units and occupy positions designated, and in manner specified in an order issued 19th of August by Chef d'Ecsadron Bouet Commanding the North Segment of 35th Div. Sector, on heights of Vosges Mts., west of Colmar.

"On 21st of Aug. at 7 hr (A. M.), the battalion and battery commanders with their personnel went forward on reconnoissance as outlined in above mentioned order.

"On the night of the 22nd-23rd of Aug., one platoon of each battery proceeded to their respective positions and on the night of the 23rd-24th the remaining platoons were brought up and occupied positions designated in the area north of Col de la Schlucht and including the Region of the Lakes (des Lacs). Echelons were established as follows, the second battalion, Le Valtin; Hdqrs. Co., the first battalion and Regl. Infirmary at Retournemer; Supply Co., at Longemer. The first battalion First Aid Station near Gazon Martin (E battery station) and the second battalion at P. C. Richard (lac Noir).

"Immediately upon relief of the French units the batteries assumed the missions of the defense of the sector as transmitted to their commanders by the commanders of the relieved units, particular attention being paid to the pre-

cautionary measures outlined in Special Orders NT 6.460, Artillerie de 33rd Corps d'Armee, 19th of Aug. 1918, by Lt. Col. Delaroche and as supplemented by G. O. 30 Hdqrs. 128th F. A., dated 25th of August.

"All lines of communication, posts of observation and liaison were established in compliance with Memo. Hdqrs. 128th F. A. dated 26th.

"Additional instructions as to the defense of the sector were promulgated and certain missions as existing modified in F. O. No. 4 Hdqrs. Field Artillery North Segment 35th Div. Sector, dated 27th of Aug. 1918. For tactical purposes the north Segment, 35th Div. Sector was divided into three sub-groupings, viz: Region of the Lakes (des Lacs), Bischstein and Gaschney. The artillery of the subsegment des Lacs, consisting of the 1st and 2nd Batteries, 1st R. A. M., (Regiment d'Artillerie de Montague) French Army and batteries E and F, 128th U. S. F. A., were placed under command of Maj. Daniel F. Jones. The artillery of the subsegment Bischstein and Gaschney consisting of the 1st and 2nd Batteries, 51st R. A. C., French Army and batteries A, B, C and D, 128th U. S. F. A. were placed under the command of Major Horace S. Rumsey, with the Major of the French artillery at Mathilde acting as advisor to both subsegments.

"Under direction of the Commanding General

60th F. A. Brigade August 28th, batteries of the 128th F. A. participated in a special mission, firing, concentrated fire, using Gas Shell No. 5. This mission was accomplished at 20 hr (8 P. M.) Aug. 29th, batteries A and B of this regiment participating, taking position and firing upon targets assigned as per Secret Order, Hdqrs. 128th F. A.

“At 18 hr (6 P. M.), the 1st of Sept. 1918, the batteries of this regiment were relieved of their mission of barrage and counter-preparation and withdrew from the line to their echelons as per F. O. No. 5, Hdqrs. 128th F. A. August 31st.

“All communications were left intact, all trench and special equipment such as Gas Equipment, etc., and all sector equipment including maps, records and plan of defense was left to relieving troops, as per Secret Order No. 79, Hdqrs. 35th Div., dated August 30th. All munitions excepting sufficient amounts of shrapnel and H. E. shell to fill caissons to the proportion of  $\frac{1}{5}$  shrapnel to  $\frac{4}{5}$  H. E. shell were turned over to relieving troops.

“In compliance with F. O. No. 5, Hdqrs. 128th F. A., Aug. 31st, all organizations of this regiment left their echelons the night of 2nd-3rd of September and marched to regroupment zone. 1st Battalion Hdqrs., Batteries A and B, from Retournemer via Garardmer, Granges, Aumont-

zey to Leveline-devant-Bruyeres. Supply Co., from Longemer, via same route to same place. Hdqrs. Co., from Retournemer via Gerardmer, Granges, Aumontzey, Laveline-devant-Bruyeres to Biffontaine and thence, (not being sufficient room there) about four kilometers further towards La Housserie where they were billeted at an abandoned farm; 2nd Battalion Hdqrs., Batteries C. D. E and F from Le Valtin via Plainfang Fraize, Corcieux, La Chappelle where 2nd Battalion Hdqrs., Batteries E and F were billeted. Batteries C and D proceeding on to Les Pouilleres. Reml. Hdqrs. and Infirmary were established at Biffontaine. All organizations were in and liaison between the units established during the day of Sept. 3rd.

"In accordance with F. O. No. 35, Hdqrs. 35th Div. dated 2nd of September this regiment prepared to move into the Rosaries area and in compliance with Secret Order No. 90 Hdqrs. 35th Div. dated 3rd of September and F. O. No. 6 Hdqrs., 128th F. A., dated the 4th, moved to the designated area by trains as follows: Train No. 1, Regl. Hdqrs., Hdqrs. Co., and Supply Co., loaded at La Chappelle at 16 hr. (4 P. M.) the 5th of Sept. Train No. 2, Battery A loaded at La Chappelle at 20 hr. (8 P. M.) the 5th. Train No. 3, 1st Battalion Hdqrs. and Battery C, loaded at Corcieux at 20:45 (8:45 P. M.), the 5th.



Train No. 4, Battery B, loaded at La Chappelle at 0 hr. (Midnight) the 5th. Train No. 5, Battery D, loaded at Corcieux at 0:45 hr. (12:45 A. M.) the 6th. Train No. 6, Battery E, loaded at La Chappelle at 3 hr (3 A. M.) the 6th. Train No. 7, 2nd Battalion Hdqrs, and Battery F, loaded at Corcieux at 4:45 hr. (4:45 A. M.) the 6th. The regulating officer at Epinal handed to the senior officer of each train instructions relative to the detraining point, also the route which he would follow in marching to the area in which his organization was to be billeted. Regl. Hdqrs., Infirmary, Hdqrs. Co., and Battery A were located at St. Nicholas-du-Port; 1st Battalion Hdqrs. Batteries B and C and Supply Co., at Lupcourt; 2nd Battalion Hdqrs., Batteries D and F at Fleville. Battery E at a farm out of Fleville in the direction of Nancy. During the time the regiment remained in this area all equipment was put in the best possible condition and preparation made for further movements.

"In compliance with F. O. No. 35, Hdqrs., 35th Div. 10th of September 1918, and F. O. No. 7, Hdqrs., 128th F. A. same date the organizations of this regiment moved north from their respective stations to bivouac in woods S. E. of Tomblaine. The movement started at 20 hr. (8 P. M.), Sept. 10th, Batteries B, C, D, E, F

and Supply Co., moving via Lupcourt, Ville-en-Vermois to St. Nicholas-du-Port clearing Ville-en-Vermois at 21:30 hr. (9:30 P. M.). As soon as the 129th F. A. cleared St. Nicholas-du-Port this regiment continued the movement via Art-sur-Meurthe to woods S. E. of Tomblaine where all organizations were under cover by 4 hr. (4 A. M.), Sept. 11th, 1918.

“(Note)—From this date until further reference is made the regiment was moved on memoranda, and on verbal order from the Commanding General, 60th F. A. Brigade, issued as the occasion demanded. Field officers and battery commanders making reconnoissance on heights beyond Nancy preparatory to St. Mihiel offensive.

“On the night of 11th-12th of Sept., 1918, starting at 19 hr. (7 P. M.), the regiment proceeded through Nancy to bivouac in woods north of Five Forks (los Cinq Tranchees), about eight kilometers beyond Nancy. The regiment maintained this position during the opening of the St. Mihiel offensive on the 12th, 13th and 14th.

“At 19 hr (7 P. M.), the 14th, the regiment moved forward in a westerly direction via Gondreville, La Champagne going into Bivouac in Bois de Villy, Ste. Etienne about six kilometers N. E. of Toul.

"At 19 hr. (7 P. M.), the 15th, the regiment moved forward via Toul, Foug, Lay St. Pagny-sur-Meuse, Ourches to Bois de Void. Regl. Hdqrs. was established at Ourches and the regiment rested here in bivouac for twenty-four hours.

"At 20 hr. (8 P. M.), the 17th, the regiment moved forward via Void, between which point and Menil-la-Horgne the movement of the entire column was delayed for several hours by heavy movement of truck trains. The march was continued past Saulx-en-Barrois, through St. Aubin, Nançois-le-Grand, about six kilometers beyond where the regiment arrived at 13 hr. (1 P. M.), the 18th, having fed men and animals during the delays.

"At 21 hr. (9 P. M.), the 18th, the regiment moved forward via Nançois-le-Petite, Guerlont, Silmont, Culey, Resson to bivouac in Forêt de Ste. Genevieve arriving there about 7 hr. (7 A. M.), the 19th.

"At 1 hr. (A. M.), the 20th, the regiment moved forward via Erize-St. Dizier, Rumont, Seigneulles, Hargeville Genicourt-sous-Conde, Conde-en-Barrois, thence through Rembercourt to within about one kilometer of Sommaisne where at 14 hr. (2 P. M.), the column was halted by the Commanding General, 60th F. A. Bri-

gade and instructions given to feed, water and rest for five hours.

"At 19 hr. (7 P. M.), the 20th, the regiment moved forward via Sommaisne, Pritz-en-Argonne-Foucaucourt, Fleury-sur-Aire, Autrecourt, Froidos to bivouac in woods west of Rarecourt arriving at 8:30 hr. (A. M.), the 21st of September.

"During the day of the 22nd the batteries remained in bivouac in woods, getting ready to go into action, by stripping of all equipment not essential to actual fighting.

"At 9 hr. (A. M.), the 23rd, the Commanding officer, Col. Frank M. Rumbold with Lieutenant Chevillard, liaison officer from the French Army, and Lieut. Goodyear, operations officer, 128th F. A., accompanied the Commanding General 60th F. A. Brigade on reconnoissance. At this time the Commanding General indicated the area in which this regiment would take position. Due to physical condition later it became necessary for Colonel Rumbold to relinquish command of the regiment and he was evacuated to the hospital that same evening, Lt. Col. Walter J. Warner assuming command.

"At 19 hr. (7 P. M.), the 23rd of September, in compliance with verbal instructions from the Commanding General 60th F. A. Brig., the regiment moved from the woods west of Rarecourt

in order as follows: 1st Battalion Hdqrs., Batteries A, B and C, 2nd Battalion Hdqrs., Batteries D, E and F, proceeded via Auxeville, Clermont-en-Argonne and Neuville. The 1st Battalion proceeded to position about 2.5 kilometers N. E. of Neuville. The 2nd Battalion proceeded about one kilometer north of Neuville on the Neuville-Boureuilles road, taking position on the southern slope of Les Cotes des Foriment (Hill 241). Forward echelons were established under the best cover available in and around Aubreville, the rear echelons being temporarily maintained in the woods west of Rarecourt.

"In compliance with F. O. No. 44 Hdqrs., 35th Div., the 24th of September, and Annex No. 1, to F. O. No. 44 Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., same date the regiment made the necessary preparations to execute the missions mentioned therein as pertained to it. All lines of communication and liaison were established; Radio stations put in operation and the coordinates of the panels sent in. The 1st Aid dressing stations were located with relation to the batteries.

"In compliance with Secret Field Order No. 9, Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., dated 25th and F. O. No. 10, Hdqrs., 128th F. A., same date the batteries of this regiment prepared the data necessary to carry out the missions assigned to them,

in above mentioned orders.

"The 1st Battallon was designated to fire on fugitive targets in liaison with the aeroplane service and when not so engaged to execute fire of interdiction on areas designated in Par. 3 F. O. No. 10 Hdqrs., 128th F. A. Upon the same authorization this Battalion participated in the barrage mission from H hour plus 131 to H hour plus 150, covering the right of the sector. Upon telephonic orders from Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., received at 3:30 hr. (A. M.) the 26th of September, the first Battalion was directed to place smoke screen in front of designated enemy guns to cover the advance of friendly tanks. This mission being executed from H hr. plus 25 to H hr. plus 50, in compliance with above mentioned paragraphs of F. O. No. 9 and 10, the 2nd Battalion executed the mission of barrage from H hr. to H hr. plus 150 (2 hours, 30 min.).

"At 8:30 hr. (A. M.), the 26th, the Battalions took preliminary measures to move forward. Upon telephonic orders from Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., the 2nd Battalion moved forward on the Neuilly-Boureuilles road as far as mined area, about one kilometer west of Buzemount, E battery being the leading battery, and being unable to proceed farther on this road, crossed to the field south of Boureuilles. One battery being placed in position so as to fire on targets desig-

nated by infantry liaison. The 1st Battalion moved forward on the road to the north of Les Cotes des Forimont toward Buzemount, thence toward Boureuilles where it was held up by road congestion. At 19:30 hr (7:30 P. M.), the regiment took position south of hill 239, remaining there until 6:30 hr. (A. M.) the 27th.

"On the morning of the 27th the 2nd Battalion moved forward occupying position on Hill 221, in accordance with Field Message. The 1st Battalion remaining in position covering this advance, and having been completed, it moved forward occupying position north of Cheppy. In compliance with Field Message dated the 27th, the 2nd Battalion executed zone fire on area mentioned therein.

"At 6 hr. (A. M.), the 28th, the 2nd Battalion moved forward via Cheppy and Very, occupying position on Hill 218 west of Very. Immediately on getting in position the batteries of the 2nd Battalion delivered harassing fire on enemy strong points, and in compliance with instructions in Field Message from Commanding General 60th F. A. Brig., dated the 28th, delivered barrage as directed therein. The rate and duration of fire was controlled by telephonic orders from the Commanding General 60th F. A. Brig.

"As soon as the 2nd Battalion was in position on the hill west of Very, the 1st Battalion,



which had covered the advance, moved forward from its position at Cheppy, upon verbal orders from the Commanding General 60th F. A. Brig. The order being to move via Very to position near Charpentry; The Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Major Horace S. Rumsey, to establish his own mission by directly supporting the infantry. This was executed as directed. Liaison with the infantry was established and fire delivered the afternoon of the 28th of September.

"At 5:30 hr. (A. M.), the 29th, the regiment executed barrage mission as ordered in F. M. No. 10, Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., dated 28th.

"Throughout the day the 1st Battalion executed fire on strong points, which were causing difficulties to our infantry, as called for by Infantry Commanders, and upon points also giving trouble as observed from the 1st Battalions' O. P. established in Baulney.

"At 13:30 hr. (1:30 P. M.), the 29th upon verbal orders from the Commanding General 60th F. A. Brig., the 2nd Battalion delivered standing barrage on front of 1200 meters along road near Apremont.

"According to exigencies of the situation normal barrages were planned to give the greatest protection to our lines, and were laid as the position of our lines changed. Barrage held



preference over all other fire and was executed on calls from the infantry.

"On telephonic orders from Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., the 2nd Battalion fired accompanying barrage at 8:30 hr. (A. M.), over area 1000 meters in depth. The 1st Battalion continued their mission of direct support of the infantry.

"At 9 hr. (A. M.), the 1st of October, on telephonic orders from Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., the regiment executed fire of neutralization in support of the infantry. Fire continued until 10:10 hr. (A. M.), when it was stopped on orders from Hdqrs. 60th F. A. Brig.

"At 14 hr. (2 P. M.), the regiment executed Zone Fire over area north of Chadron Farm, for 10 minutes as per order from 60th F. A. Brig. All batteries then resumed Normal barrage mission.

"The 1st Div., having relieved the 35th Div., with exception of the artillery, this regiment in compliance with F. O. No. 45 Hdqrs., 1st Div., dated the 1st of Oct., was prepared to be relieved during the night of 1st-2nd. Upon later orders, namely amendment to F. O. No. 45 as above and F. O. No. 9 Hdqrs. 60th F. A. Brig., dated the 2nd, the regiment continued its mission until relieved by the 1st Div. artillery midnight of 2nd-3rd.

"During the night of 1st-2nd, the 1st Bat-

talion was subjected to heavy concentration of mustard gas. In view of this condition orders were issued to evacuate the area but to leave guns in position and laid; and to remain sufficiently close by to fire in case of necessity. At 12:20 hr. (12:20 P. M.), the 2nd Battalion executed concentrated fire on enemy strong points.

“At 1 hr. (A. M.), the 3rd of October, upon telephonic information from Hdqrs. 60th F. A. Brig., the regiment was advised that the relief by the artillery of the 1st Div. had been accomplished and that the regiment was to withdraw in compliance with F. O. No. 9 Hdq. 60th F. A. Brig., dated the 2nd. The 2nd Battalion withdrew via Very, Cheppy and Varennes to area in woods south of Varennes where bivouac was made. Maj. Horace S. Rumsey, commanding the 1st Battalion upon receipt of orders for withdrawal turned his command over to Capt. Sanford. Maj. Rumsey suffering from gas burns, was evacuated to the hospital. The 1st Battalion withdrew via Charpentry and Varennes to the woods south of Varennes where bivouac for the day was made.

“At 18 hr. (6 P. M.), the 3rd, the regiment proceeded toward the regroupement area arriving near Les-Islette about 5 hr. (A. M.), the 4th where the regiment went into bivouac.

"At 13 hr. (1 P. M.), the regiment moved forward to Camp Cotte where bivouac for the night was made. In compliance with F. O. No. 53 Hdqrs., 35th Div., dated the 4th, the regiment resumed the march at 7 hr. (A. M.), the 5th, proceeding via Waly, Evres, Sommaisne, Rembercourt aux Pots, Marats la Petite, Marars la Grande and Seigneulles, where bivouac for the night was made along the road.

"At 8 hr. (A. M.), the 6th, the regiment moved into the area designated for billeting. Regl. Hdqrs., Hdqrs Co., 1st Battalion Hdqrs. and batteries A and C, located at Rosnes, 2nd Battalion Hdqrs., batteries B, D, E, F and Supply Co., located in Erize la Brulee.

"From the 6th to the morning of the 12th of October the regiment remained in the rest billets above mentioned. New clothing was issued to replace that which had been subjected to the gas attack. Material and equipment gone over and the reorganization of the command perfected.

"At 8 hr. (A. M.), the 12th, the regiment moved from its present location in compliance with F. O. No. 54 Hdqrs. 35th Div., dated the 11th proceeding via Belrain, Pierrefitte, Courrouve and Thillombois, where bivouac was made for the night.

"At 18 hr. (6 P. M.), the 13th, the regiment

moved forward to the Sommedieu area in compliance with F. O. No. 56 Hdqrs. 35th Div., dated the 13th, proceeding via Villers, Genicourt to Bois Sec, where camp was made.

"On the night of 14th-15th, in compliance with above order and verbal instructions from the Commanding General 60th F. A. Brig., the regiment moved out of Bois Sec to relieve the artillery units of the 15th D. I. C. (French) on the Sommedieu Sector east of Verdun.

"All lines of communication and liaison were installed. Plans for the defense of the sector assumed, being those turned over by the relieved units.

"In compliance with F. O. No. 57 Hdqrs. 35th Div., dated the 16th, the artillery fire of this sector was confined strictly to actual demands for defense of the sector.

"At 17 hr. (5 P. M.), the 18th, plans for the defense of the sector were modified to comply with F. O. No. 11 Hdqrs. 60th F. A. Brig. As soon as a battery was thoroughly overhauled in the M. O. R. S., it was brought back into position to relieve another.

"At 5 hr. (A. M.), the 20th, defensive barrage was fired on telephone call from Infantry Hdqrs.

"During the night of 21st-22nd, defensive

barrage was fired three different times on rocket and telephone call from infantry.

"At 8 hr. (A. M.), the 26th, the regiment assumed protective barrage missions as set forth in F. O. No. 15 Hdqrs. 60th F. A. Brig. The protective barrage mission for this regiment remained unchanged by F. O. No. 20 Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., dated the 29th of October.

"By virtue of F. O. No. 67 Hdqrs., 35th Div., dated the 4th of November, the infantry of the 35th Div. was relieved by the infantry of the 81st Div. The artillery of the 35th Div. remaining in position, taking up the support of the 81st Div. All communication and liaison were established at once.

"On the morning of the 7th of November, one battery of this regiment opened fire for neutralization as per F. O. No. 25 Hdqrs. 60th F. A. Brig., dated the 6th.

"In compliance with F. O. No. 26 Hdqrs. 60th F. A. Brig., dated the 9th, the batteries of this regiment delivered preparatory fire on the areas designated in par. 10, of F. O. No. 26, for the purpose of silencing enemy machine guns. Fire opened at 7:30 hr. (A. M.), and concluded at 9 hr. (A. M.), firing 2979 rounds. Upon completion of firing at 9 hr. (A. M.), in compliance with par. 13, of above order and telephonic instructions from Hdqrs., 60th F. A. Brig., bat-

teries E, B and A, designated for tactical purposes as the 1st Battalion, 128th F. A., withdrew from positions prepared to advance as accompanying batteries with the attack of the 81st Div. Inf., and moved out on the National Highway No. 3, (Verdun-Metz Road), taking with them all available caissons filled in the following proportions: caissons with N. E. Normal, pieces and caisson limbers with shrapnel.

"At 9 hr. (A. M.), in accordance with par. 13, of F. O. No. 26, Hdq. 60th F. A. Brig., the command of the three batteries E, A and B passed from Commanding Officer, 128th F. A. to the Commanding General, 162nd Infantry Brigade 81st Div.

"At 10 hr. (A. M.), the 9th of November 1918, the Commanding General, 162nd Inf. Brig., telephoned, through liaison officer, 1st Lieut. E. S. Butts, that the road to Haudiamont was clear and that the artillery Battalion Commander was to report to him at P. C. Bordeaux and to further instruct the three batteries to move forward on the Verdun-Metz Road toward Haudiamont, beyond which point they could not proceed because the advance had not yet progressed to sufficient depth to permit permanent occupation of any forward positions.

"At 17:55 hr. (5:55 P. M.), the 9th Batteries C and D fired special ten minute barrage on U

27.14 to U 37.07 upon request of Commanding General, 162nd Inf. Brig.

“Upon authorization of the Commanding General, 162nd Inf. Brig., batteries of the 1st Battalion were returned to their original positions and a forward echelon was established near by at about 17 hr. (5 P. M.).

“During the night of the 9th-10th of Nov. batteries of the 1st battalion were laid on protective barrage mission as follows:

Battery E,      U23.5-12 to U29-00.5

Battery A,      U29-00.5 to U33-09

Battery B,      U33-09      to U37.5-07.5

“Batteries of the 2nd Battalion were held in readiness to fire on telephonic instructions, a barrage covering the front extending in a general line from U 68-03 to U 99-00 to U 37-14.

“At 6 hr. (A. M.), the 10th, upon authorization from the Commanding General, 162nd Inf. Brig., Battery A fired 100 rounds (accompanying barrage) beginning N. W. corner La Noir Haie (U 40-10) and proceeding N. E. for 200 meters to permit advance of one Battalion of the 324th Inf. 81st Div.

“At 1:30 hr. (A. M.), the 10th, Batteries E, A and B fired barrage, as mentioned above on the 9th-10th, with change, in the increase of range



300 meters. At 12:35 hr. (P. M.), same date batteries E and A fired the same mission with increase on range of 100 meters. At 16 hr. (4 P. M.), battery A fired for destruction 50 rounds on strong point U 64-20.5. Total foregoing fired 875.

"During the night of 10th-11th, the regiment laid on protective barrage on line U 27.8-14.1 to U 41.3-14.2 to U 46.4-10.2.

"In compliance with F. O. No. 2 Hdqrs., 162nd Inf. Brig., dated the 10th of November, the following missions were assigned to the 1st Battalion to cover the advance of the 323rd Inf. Battery E fired on Chateau des Hannoncelles from 6:45 to 7:45 hr. (A. M.), the 11th. Battery B fired on La Noir Haie U42.6 to U46.8 from 6:45 to 7:45 hr. (A. M.). Battery A fired on the S. E. edge of Bois de Manhuelles (U 33.4 to U 37.5-08) from 6:45 to 7:45 hr (A. M.). Rounds fired 720.

"At 8:45 hr. (A. M.), the 11th of Nov., Battery E fired for destruction on strong point Chateau des Hannoncelles concluding at 9:10 hr. (A. M.). Battery B fired on Ville-en-Woevre from 8:55 to 9:10 hr. (A. M.) Battery A fired on U 64-20.3 from 8:55 to 9:10 hr. (A. M.). Upon request of the Commanding General, 162nd Inf. Brig., and upon authorization by 60th F. A. Brig., Battery D fired for destruction



from 10:25 to 10:45 hr. (A. M.) on U 38.14. Rounds fired 923.

"At 11 hr. (A. M.) the 11th of November 1918, all firing was stopped per order and batteries E, A and B resumed status held prior to morning of the 9th.

"At 5 hr. (A. M.), the 17th of Nov., the 1st Division took over the line outposts. At that hour this regiment was relieved of its mission as per F. O. No. 27 Hdqrs. 60th F. A. Brig., dated the 16th.

"About 8:30 (A. M.) the 22nd of January 1919, the regiment left its position, and proceeded, by marching, via Sommedieu, Genicourt to Thillombois where bivouac for night was made.

"The march was resumed at 8 hr. (A. M.), the 23rd, proceeding via Pierrefitte, Lavallo to Lignieres, where 1st Battalion Hdqrs., batteries A and C were billeted; the remainder of the regiment proceeding on to Dagonville where Regimental Hdqrs., Hdqrs. Co., Supply Co. and battery B were billeted; 2nd Battalion Hdqrs. and battery F proceeded to Grimacourt. Batteries D and E to Cousance, where they were billeted.

"About 15 hr. (3 P. M.), the 6th of March, in compliance with F. O. No. 3, Order No. 124 and Annex 1, 2 and 3 Hdqrs., 35th Div., dated

the 27th of February 1919, and F. O. No. 1 Hdqrs. 128th F. A. dated the 5th of March, the regiment proceeded by marching; Hdqrs. Co. and 1st Battalion via Dagonville, Sal Mange; 2nd Battalion via Loxeville, Willeroncourt Nancois le Petite to Nancois-Tronville. The 1st Battalion entrained and departed at 22:56 (10:56 P. M.), the 6th. Regimentals Hdqrs. Hdqrs. Co., Supply Co. and 2nd Battalion entraining and departed at 6:30 hr. (A. M.) the 7th for the Le Mans area."

The regiment moved by train, from the Le Mans area on the 31st of March, for Brest, the Port of Embarkation, and sailed for the United States the 11th of April, on H. M. S. "Vedic", arriving in Boston April 22nd and took train for Camp Devens, Mass., leaving that camp April 27th for Camp Funston, Kans., arriving there May 1st, and was mustered out of the service May 2nd, 1919.

## CHAPTER IV.

## Incidents Prior to Arrival in France.

In the Sunday edition of the Kansas City Star July 22nd, 1917, an announcement appeared of the forming of a new Kansas City battery of artillery. The notice told of the advantages of belonging to a home organization, and asked for volunteers. Enlistments in Battery E of the First Missouri Field Artillery were taken at the gas office, 910 Grand Ave. Five days later at a meeting in Convention Hall, the following officers were elected: Captain L. L. Bucklew, Lt. A. L. Sawyer, Lt. E. C. Reilly, Lt. C. L. Mars, Lt. R. J. McMurray.

From time of enlistment to August 5th, 1917, in Kansas City, it was not only a wild scramble to secure full strength, but to get men who were good material for non-commissioned officers, and specialists such as are required in the artillery. None of the enlisted men had artillery experience; a few had been in other branches of

the Service, and their experience was of great value in helping instill the rudiments of soldiering into the rest of the Battery. Joyce R. Snyder was appointed 1st Sergt., and his long experience in the National Guard was a great help, for he had the appearance and manner necessary to handle recruits, and knew the game, which he played as an old soldier. There were several others, who also knew the ropes, and with their help it was possible to set down the principles and spirit of the Battery, which was to mean so much to us later.

Several evenings were spent in squad drill at Convention Hall before we were called out; an amusing incident of these drills was that of "Dad" Geenans, who was discovered marching at attention, with his pipe in his mouth; he readily removed it when told to do so, but drilling was hard work, and out would come the pipe again. It was on one of these evenings that two Philipinos, Rosa and Redona, were discovered as observers; it developed that Rosa was raised north of Lipa, Luzon, where Capt. Bucklew had served in the U. S. Army in 1899. Rosa and Redona enlisted that same evening.

As members of the National Guard of Missouri we were preparing to assemble August 5th in response to the "Call." Some were making hurried trips to their homes out of the city for

a farewell. All could not go home, for we had men from all parts of the United States, Canada, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium. Later there joined us Brown, the American Indian, who was followed by men from Italy, Russia and other countries.

The morning of August 5th, 1917, in answer to the President's call, 139 men were present at Admiral Blvd. and Lydia Ave., where our camp was located until the latter part of the month. Complete uniforms were not available, but what was originally called "Bucklew's Army" did not wait for uniforms to learn to perform the duties of a soldier; they soon mastered the rudiments. Mrs. Mars and Mrs. Dixie Newland provided blankets. Chas. J. Carter raised funds among lumbermen to buy shoes and socks. Baker & Lockwood loaned tents and cots. Efforts of Mrs. Severance and Miss Lillian Bucklew brought results, and Mrs. Fuller of the Red Cross supplied toilet articles. The Government supplies came slowly, and if it had not been for the generosity of these good people many of the men would have suffered. Later a Battery Roster was printed with paid advertisements, which enabled us to start a battery fund.

The battery was isolated from other troops, and being part of a St. Louis regiment was dubbed "The Orphan Battery." Our isolation

helped us, as it permitted the training of a small unit in the basic principles of soldiering as planned, and there was no interruption of the policy, for the isolation continued for some weeks; so that by the last of October the battery as an organization was functioning properly; each one understanding just what was expected. The battery had that great thing called discipline, the thing that is the keynote of a soldier's successful training, and without which soldiers are little more than a mob.

We had our comedy: as an illustration, one man who had been reprimanded, and upon being brought to Lt. Sawyer, offered the latter a dime to get a cigar, evidently to square the matter. This man's later faithful service, as well as the faithful service of others, wiped out their early errors, and gave much satisfaction to those in command.

Full of life as the men were, and up to as many tricks as young boys would pull off, they were a source of great pride; never were soldiers more loyal to their organization. Later, as cold weather came, when other organizations were provided with sweaters and kits, the "Orphan Battery" appeared to have been overlooked, but the work of Mrs. Grace Morrow of Excelsior Springs, Mo., as God Mother, resulted in getting sweaters, socks, helmets and wristlets

by the dozen; provision was made for everyone.

Great was the rejoicing when E battery was designated to precede the regiment on August 23rd, 1919, to Ft. Sill. Flowers and lunch figured in the farewell. The 2nd Mo. F. A. Band furnished the music. "Oh Johnny" with many quick steps helped us on the way to Union Station, and helped to defy hints of sadness, so that few tears marked the departure.

Daylight the 25th found us on a siding at Fort Sill, where we received our baptism of dust. The Engineers were the only other troops of the 35th Division there when we arrived, and the camp was far from ready to receive troops. Lt. Mars on that day, with his detail, proceeded to accumulate in his efficient way our supplies, and his training of the detail at that time helped the battery many times, and when it came to shrewdness Sergt. Githens was "right there." Gen. Lucian G. Berry arrived about this time to take command of the 60th F. A. Brigade.

Tents were soon pitched. Hats were issued and a solemn funeral service was conducted to the burial place of the last civilian hat. Some dressed in robes, and Lt. Rielly's battery band provided music. Lt. Rielly also had charge of our canteen; and from sales to other organizations as the men arrived in camp hot, dry, and hungry, we were able to lay aside a fund that



lasted through our service. Many will remember those hot September days and that swimming hole which helped so much between drill periods. Also how Lt. Sawyer injected hot work and words as he worked out the battery, according to his hard Annapolis training. Then there was Lt. McMurray with his short snappy way. The practice marches were hard, and "Shorty" Olsen was not the last one in, for he kept up with many who had longer legs. He it was who had to climb the horse's leg to mount. We did not like to lose him, but he had opportunity to do good work at Brigade Headquarters; so he was ordered there, but visited us often. Then we also lost Mackintosh, who was promoted to Sergt. Major. Jeck, as well as others, from time to time applied themselves and were given opportunity in other organizations, until we were represented at Division, Brigade, Regimental and Battalion Headquarters, and some specially qualified men were placed in other outfits, Sergt. Severance being selected as Regimental N. C. Gas Officer. It can also be said some passed up opportunities for commissions. Corp. Davies was selected for work at G. H. Q. There were many who served their entire time as privates faithfully who deserved rewards, but unfortunately these could not be given to all.



The early period at Ft. Sill was spent in setting up exercises, close order drill and lectures. Winter came; no day was too cold but the battery was out at work. Four 3 inch guns were received. The men were put through iron training and discipline, but plenty of good plain food developed them into strong soldiers, capable of endurance, Maj. Daniel F. Jones commanding our battalion.

To replace discharged and transferred men others from Camp Funston, Kans., together with additions from the 129th F. A. and infantry were received. The infantrymen were experts in the manual of arms, and this helped the rifle drill of the battery. In March, 1918, additional men arrived from Camp Travis, Texas; they were a husky lot.

The work of the gun crews had to be learned over again when our equipment was changed to 4.7 tractor drawn artillery. The range was out at Signal Mt., and while the infantry were burying bayonets in dummy Germans, the artillery were heaving shells at the mountain. The banging away of the 60th Artillery Brigade at firing practice, gave the men a good idea of the part they were soon to play in the Great War. When the guns were prepared for shipment to France many personal articles were hidden in the caissons, which were never seen again.

Our picket line was the scene of several fistic encounters, however all of them did not take place there. When a member of the battery became involved with some one from another outfit the battery spirit was evident. The feeling that we were the best, was backed up by several facts, such as winning the football game, and Weeks taking the wrestling championship for his weight, in the Division. He was offered a tour in France when we were leaving there but declined. Recalling the general desire to have the battery at top notch, we remember the final inspection at Ft. Sill, when one man forgot his comb; as soon as the battery was dismissed, another member of the battery proceeded to take satisfaction out of the hide of the careless one.

All will recall the days when gun emplacements were dug near Signal Mountain, and the hikes to and from there, skirmish lines were formed to drive out the rabbits, and when one bounded across the prairie the men would whoop, and the chase be on, assisted by dogs, who always went out on these trips. This short recreation was a relief from the hard, serious work many had to do. The cooks had their troubles trying to follow directions of Major Pim; as Harris said, "Keep out of food stuffs these three eyed 'Dingusses' with curly tails

and long feelers, to change white uniforms frequently and keep their nails clean." Sergt Ziegler, who had the thankless job of Mess Sergt., could not be beat, and he gained a reputation in the Division by the excellent manner in which he carried on his work. The following is quoted from the K. C. Times, Nov. 22nd, 1917:

### **"PRAISE KANSAS CITY UNIT**

**"Battery E Crack of 128th Regiment at  
Doniphan.**

"Camp Doniphan, Okla., Nov. 22.—Battery E of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Field Artillery, recruited in Kansas City and combined with the five other batteries from St. Louis, is considered the pacemaker of the regiment. Praise for the battery is heard wherever there is a discussion in the regiment.

"Col. F. M. Rumbold, commander of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth, has personally commended the officers, non-coms and privates of Battery E, for their efficiency and superior drill work. \* \*

"Battery E has another point of superiority over every other unit in the Division. That is in the mess shack.

"Herbert F. Ziegler, a Missouri University

man, presides as mess sergeant. Under him are four cooks with experience that would qualify them to cook for kings: John Groves, former cook for a big circus; Raymond Harris, head of a delicatessen shop in San Francisco; Walter Carpenter, in the John J. Grier Rock Island service, and Leroy Smith, who was a printer at Burd & Fletcher's before enlisting.

"Big plans are being made for Thanksgiving Day. Menus and programs have been printed on olive drab paper, speeches are being prepared, and the afternoon will be devoted to eating what they can of the following menu:

Cream of Chicken

Celery

Olives

Pickles

Roast Turkey

Oyster Dressing

Cranberry Sauce

Mashed Potatoes

Candied Sweet Potatoes

Early June Peas

Romaine Head Lettuce Salad

Mince Pie

Pumpkin Pie

Russian Fruit Cake

Oranges

Grapes

Bananas

Assorted Nuts

American Cheese

Coffee

Grape Juice

Tea

Cigars

Cigarettes

Mints"

There was another period of rejoicing when the thirteen men sent to France ahead of us, as the "Over Sea Detail," departed, for we felt we had started; several parties were held late that night.

It was about this time Charlie Geenans had been sent to the Infirmary. Feeling lonesome he wrote a note to the Doctor, telling him he did not like to stay there, and that he was going to his battery; he slipped away, and was found in his tent.

The isolation camp was patronized by many, and a sorry lot it was when some one in a tent would break out with the measles, resulting in all men in that tent being marched away.

Sergt. Ching became so proficient with the tractors that he was called on to give instructions in the regiment. Chief Mechanic Nolan likewise attained results with the 4.7 material. The chiefs of section were not the only ones who studied and attended night classes. Each section was capable of working independent of the battery if detached and thrown on their own resources. Then also did Sergt. Gattrell impart his knowledge to his detail, and control the men as none other in the Brigade. They had their close associates in the detail, and in each section; each trying to outdo the other.

Responsibilities were placed; work outlined

for each; and all held to strict accountability. This resulted in all having confidence in themselves and executing with a will the most arduous duties.

Later two men were assigned to the battery, who did not hold the views of soldiering as we did; when they displayed this attitude it did not take long for them to be shown the light, by the men themselves, and they developed into good, faithful soldiers.

Our beloved Lashbrook let his energy run away with him one night. A deep hole had been dug at one end of the battery street. He wanted to get to Lawton more often, where his sister was living then; on this night about eleven o'clock, so he claimed later, he jumped in the hole; the guard claimed he yelled as though he was being murdered. The guard with others lifted him out; he was carried to the hospital. Major Pim fixed him up and Lashbrook said he almost believed he did have three ribs broken, as the Major thumped his ribs and confined him to the hospital for a short time. Lashbrook often said it was not his ribs but his head; for the sun was hot, drilling hard, and as an orderly he was not excused from drilling.

Spring came and on May 10th, 1918, the battery and regiment entrained for New York. It

was fortunate the battery passed through Kansas City, for it enabled the men to see their relatives and friends; also put on a parade. Short marches were also made at Bloomington, Ill., Cleveland, Ohio, and Buffalo, N. Y. New York City was reached the 14th, and arrival at Camp Mills the 15th. Inspections and final oversea examinations took place there.

Five o'clock May 20th, the troops sailed aboard R. M. S. Saxonia. The ship had a capacity of only 3000 and was rather old; some fears were expressed as to her ability to fight submarines.

Coming into the harbor of Halifax, alone, the morning of the 23rd, the Saxonia joined many other camouflaged transports. The next morning the fleet of 17 ships weighed anchors and started across the Atlantic. On deck it was compulsory to wear life belts, and boat drills were held regularly. Mess put on by the ship's cooks was very poor compared to what our camp rations had been; their rabbit stew well deserved the name of cat. Rain and cool weather was the rule, but only one day did the sea get rough.

At 6 o'clock, June 1st, a speck was observed on the horizon, which, when it came closer, proved to be the first destroyer sent out from England, to meet the incoming transports. Several other destroyers joined us; one carried an



observation balloon, which it could drag over the water at great speed like some huge dragon fly. The sub-chasers added much to the feeling of safety, as we were then passing through the danger zone.

June 2nd, about 6 P. M. two "subs" were reported close to the convoy. The alarm was given; all the transports changed course. The destroyers rushed to the spot where the submarines had been reported and dropped depth bombs. one "sub" being reported as destroyed.

June 4th, everyone welcomed the sight of land when the white cliffs and green hills of England came into view. June 5th, at 11:30 A. M. the Saxonia tied up at Tilbury dock. These were the first American troops to land in this part of England. The troops boarded 3rd class railway coaches for Winchester. Arriving at Winchester, a long hike was made to Camp Winnal Downs, with full packs. Time at this camp was spent in resting up. English rations were wholesome, but meagre. The scarcity of food brought home the slogan, "Save or starve."

Two days' stay at this camp and we left for Southampton, crossing the Channel in a small cattle boat, at night.



## CHAPTER V.

## In France Prior to Armistice.

The Battery set foot on French soil for the first time at La Havre, June 8th, and found themselves in a quaint old city. The next day the men made their acquaintance with the "soldier side door Pullman," for they were loaded in French box cars at the rate of "40 Hommes—8 Cheveaux" (in accordance with the sign on the car door). The cars looked like toys compared with the big American box cars, being four-wheeled, and having a hand brake.

The scenery of France, as the train rolled along, proved much different than that of the States. Instead of Prairie land in large tracts, the country was rolling, the fields were small, but intensively cultivated; many of the gardens having moss covered tile walls between them, giving a most picturesque appearance. Peasants tilled the soil, many with last century implements.

The box car ride ended at Montriél, June 10th. The Battery was billeted at Chevalier Farm, two kilometers from the small village of La Meighnan, and eight kilometers from Angers, in the wonderful valley of the Loire. Here again in our isolation from other billets, the Battery had its "family" difficulties to smooth out but nevertheless many will recall some happy days here. From the gate to the Chateau, stretched a long lane bordered with parallel rows of state-ly trees; in this lane the Battery spent many hours, carrying out the daily schedule. On the adjoining farm was a French family consisting of mother, daughter and crippled soldier son. This good woman had lost one son, killed early in the war, and another was then a prisoner in Germany. These two hard working women and the cripple were very kind to us—it was our first intimate knowledge of what the French had, and were enduring in this War—and when we sympathized with this woman she bravely said, "it is for France"; so loyal are these peasant folk.

The French Cafe proved a novelty to the Americans. Even the smallest villages had numerous cafes where wines and beer were sold; and as a consequence some indulged too freely—and became "beaucoup zigzag" as the French would say.

June 19th, the Battery received its issue of the famous French 75mm guns—this again necessitated changing the gun drill learned at Doniphan. These guns were retained however throughout the campaign.

June 20th saw all of the oversea detail back with the Battery again, having completed their course in advanced work at Valdahon, and needless to say their instruction was of great value to them and their comrades. Everyone enjoyed their stay at Chevalier Farm. Passes to Angers gave the men an opportunity to view a large French city.

On the 9th of July the Battery entrained for Camp Coetquidon, near Guer, and arrived there the same day. This camp was a finishing school for artillery. Schools for specialists were conducted. The issue of horses was received at this camp, and it took only a few weeks for the men to become proficient in handling them.

After firing a regimental problem, in which an advancing barrage was worked out on the opposite hills, the Battery's "School of fire" work was finished. The outfit was now ready for the fighting fronts, and on August 16th the journey across France eastward began. The route led through Rennes, LeMans, Versailles, (just outside of Paris) Chaumont, Epinal and Remiremont. At Epinal the first Boche aero-

plane raider and anti-aircraft guns were seen in action. Sunday, Aug. 18th, the organization left the train at Remiremont, and proceeded overland, with guns and horses, to La Forge, a small village in the Vosges mountains. Aug. 21st the march was taken up through Gerardmer, and into the Vosges-Gerardmer Sector.

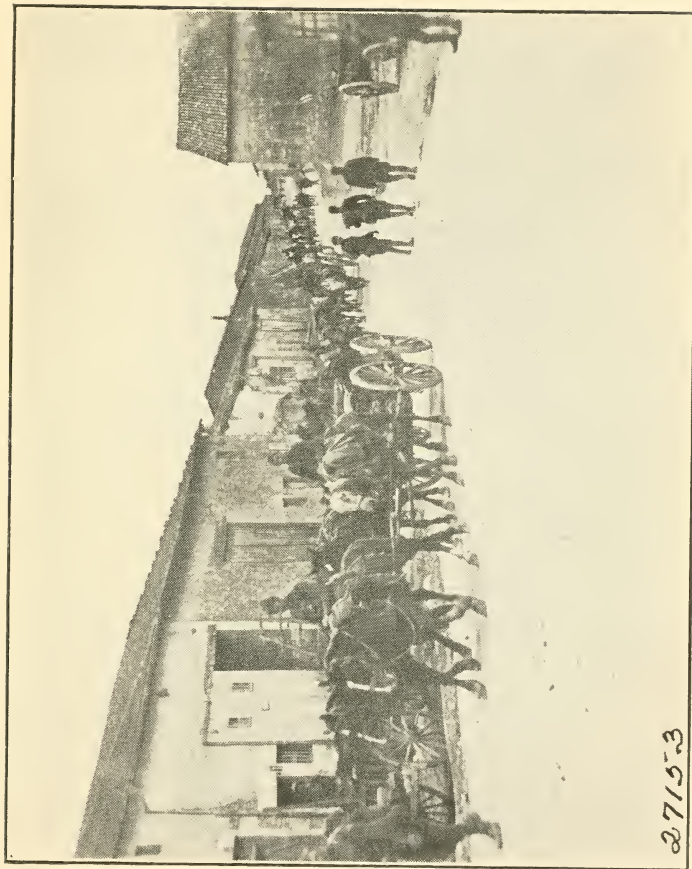
The Battery faced the Germans for the first time on Aug. 22nd, when they pulled the guns into position up the side of a mountain. Movement and the furnishing of the supplies here was very difficult, owing to the mountainous character of the country. There was no active campaign on in the Vosges at this time, so the Boche sent over only harassing fire. The Battery registered and fired for the first time at the enemy on Aug. 27th, Sergt. Ching sending over the first shot at 3 P. M. From the artillery O. P. Nicholai, the Germans and their system of fortifications in the mountain fastness could be seen. The Allies and the Germans both had lost many men trying to take each others' strong positions, resulting in the warfare changing to small offensives and raids. We were careful not to fire on the city of Munster and other towns in range. From our O. P. on a clear day the Rhine Valley was easily visible. Some French citizens in this section were pro-German, and required continual watching. This

quiet sector did not remain quiet after the Americans arrived, and the last two days that the Battery was in this position there was continuous fighting and heavy shelling.

In occupying new positions, orders were strictly enforced, prohibiting anyone crossing open fields and thereby leaving a trail through the long grass distinctly discernable in German aeroplane photos—consequently giving the enemy a cue as to recent activity in that position. As this position became active, amid the loud report of the H. E. shells could be heard the quiet thud of gas shells and the shrieking of gas sirens—the din was deafening. The Battery was in the open in a new position, therefore did not have the shelter of dugouts; and during the most uncomfortable periods a few of the men occupied a small partly built ammunition shelter. Shells fell in the position, but no one was injured. Sept. 1st the sector was taken over by the relieving Division, and the march overland began. To keep troop movements unknown to the enemy, all moves near the front had to be made under cover of darkness (this was called “night seeing” in France). Strict orders kept anyone from smoking at these times, for fear of observation of flashes of light by the Germans. One weary night after traveling 41 kilometers, La Chappelle was reached. From

there sixteen hours on a slow moving train brought the Battery to Einvaux on Sept. 6th. We marched several kilometers from this point, and were taking cover in an old orchard, when the whir of an aeroplane and the firing of anti-aircraft guns were heard, and suddenly a German plane appeared, flying low; their machine gun bullets cut leaves from the trees over us, the plane passed to a field adjoining and landed, undamaged, except for gasoline leaking from its tank, which had been pierced by a machine gun bullet. The Germans continued firing until they landed. Capt. Bucklew, taking Lt. Dinkins, Sergt. Ziegler, Sergt. Gattrell, and several others, quickly formed a skirmish line and rushed the Germans before they could do any damage or destroy the plane; for they carried a grenade to be used in an emergency like this. Sergt. Ziegler acted as interpreter; of the two German officers, one wore two Iron Crosses, one of the First Class and one of the Second Class. One officer was crestfallen and unhappy; the other said he was glad the war was over for him and gave Capt. Bucklew his goggles. Thus the first German captives in the Brigade fell to Battery E. One of the Germans wanted to light a cigarette while standing near the leaking tank; he was prevented from striking the match, as it was no doubt his intention to destroy the plane





27153

Caught as Part of the 128th R. A. was on the road.



and those of us standing near, if possible.

The march continued through Fleville to a farm known as "Farme de Frocourt", four kilometers outside Nancy. Here a rest was taken. Sept. 10th the farm was left behind, and the night march taken up by way of St. Nicholas. The 60th Field Artillery Brigade was now on the road, moving as a whole.

The fact was now made known that the Division, as a part of the 1st Army, was being held in reserve for the attack to be made on St. Mihiel. At 1:00 A. M. on Sept. 12th, the American bombardment began; at 2:00 A. M. the Brigade moved forward, after having stood in a soaking rain for six hours waiting to know as to whether or not we would be used in the first lines; and learned that fighting did not always mean actual shooting. The American barrage continued until nine in the morning. The Brigade was now stationed in a big beech tree forest, "Foret de Haye." News came into camp about capture of many Germans and gain of large territory, which meant the drive had succeeded, and further support by the Brigade would not be required in this operation.

The Battery took up the hike again, traveling northward just behind the front. Night after night the men followed the caissons, snatching what rest they could get during the short halts.

Daylight found the guns and horses hidden in the timber or camouflaged from aeroplane observation. Changed orders now called for all possible speed. Hay and oats for the horses were hard to obtain, and carry. Many times, even the "corn willy" supply was short. Because of the wornout condition of the horses the men were required to carry their packs; soon the horses began to give out, and every few kilometers horses had to be taken out, some to be shot and others turned loose. We were northwest of Verdun, opposite the Argonne; motor trucks laden with ammunition poured up to the front in a never ending line. At this place Sergt. Githens succeeded in getting camouflage screens, and the Regimental Supply Company worked day and night under very trying conditions, doing excellent work.

Sept. 22nd, the Brigade, weary and footsore, drew into the woods outside of Rarecourt, having traveled 350 kilometers since leaving the Vosges Mts. Eighteen nights of hard marching had brought the Brigade up in time for the coming offensive. One of the nights Lt. Wright was having trouble with a mired wagon, and sent Lashbrook to get a rope. Lashbrook searched diligently, and in the dark found one tied to a post, which rope he unfastened and found the other end tied to a horse. No one ever claimed

the animal and for a long time Lashbrook's find shared forage with the other horses.

Sept. 23rd the Battery moved through destroyed Neuville, up to what was to be their position in the great drive to be pulled off in the Argonne. In the moonlight hours of early morning on the 24th, the guns were established in position and camouflaged under fire of the German batteries. Daylight found the position without any human movement or trace of the work accomplished, everyone remaining hidden. The following night was spent by every available man carrying and stacking rows of 75mm ammunition to be used in the opening barrage of the offensive later known as the Meuse-Argonne. Pvt. Frank Lewis was injured by enemy shell fire while carrying ammunition. Horseshoer Holmes was also slightly wounded.

In the territory assigned to the 35th Division to capture stood Vauquois Hill, a formidable fortress, tunneled with deep concrete dugouts. In Man's Land, a forest of barbed wire, protected an extensive trench system of the Germans. The French had been unsuccessful for four years in trying to capture Vauquois Hill, in the famous Hindenburg Line.

At midnight, and during the early hours of Sept. 26th, the American-French offensive broke out with a roar; the big guns, smaller

guns, and machine guns tried to outdo each other in noise. At 5:30 A. M., the Battery joined in the barrage lasting until 8:00 A. M., and smoke belching from three thousand guns dotting the countryside, and making a thick fog. Regularly, the drum fire would be broken by a still louder explosion; that of the 15-inch Naval guns sending over death and destruction from the rear. The flash of the guns made the dusk seem ghastly. The Battery barrage was creeping, jumping forward at one hundred meter intervals until the thirtieth jump was reached, starting at 3,000 meters and ending at 6,000 meters. As the hands of our watches pointed to the zero hour, the indescribable din and thunder of many guns rolled over the Valley of the Aire.

Far and near thousands of flashes blended together in the early morning hours and made a continuous glow. The guns sizzled, and empty shells were thrown nearby, as our 75's belched fire and sent their message to the Germans; the shells from large calibre guns in the rear shrieked and whined in their flight over our heads. Strong as were the German dugouts, machine gun nests and battery emplacements, they could not long withstand the tons of high explosives that were dropped on them. The guns also swept German crossroads, ammunition dumps and barbed wire entanglements. During this time







Batteries D, E and F, early morning, Sept. 26, at opening c  
and before moving forward on Varennes road.





Meuse-Argonne Drive, just after 2½ hours continuous firing  
e barbed wire entanglements in front of guns.



the German and Austrian artillery gave reply, but it was feeble in comparison.

At 6:30 A. M., the doughboys had gone over the top; the artillery was ordered forward at 8:30 A. M., just as two 120mm German shells rocked the Battery position; the American railroad guns were still keeping up their work on the German back area. Just as day was breaking a carrier pigeon flew between two of the guns as they fired. The frightened bird, no doubt bewildered by the concussion, kept on the wing and flew to the rear. When the enemy started to retreat, they exploded mines and delayed our advance; many of their traps and unexploded mines were discovered later.

Battery E was the first to limber and get out on the Varennes road when the advance was ordered; so led the column in the march forward. The first obstacle was a mine crater thirty feet deep and one hundred and sixty feet wide, which split open the road to Varennes, the ground on both sides being low and muddy. Here a detail of engineers was starting to construct a road around the barrier for traffic was becoming congested. The Germans, observing this temporary tie-up, threw shells directly into the mass of men and material. Battery E had been moved from the immediate vicinity of the crater, though only a short distance, however. Capt.

Bucklew, Lt. Dinkins, and the Special Detail were within a few feet of one of the shells that fell in the road. Lt. Dinkins and Pvt. Clements were the only two of Battery E wounded; the others killed and injured belonged to the engineers. Lt. Dinkins, receiving a severe wound close to the spine, did not recover for several months. Pvt. Clements seriously wounded in the left side and arm, later succumbed to these injuries, and the Battery mourned the loss of "Bob" as he was known to his comrades. He had "gone West" before we were relieved in the Argonne. Ambulances now appeared to carry away wounded. German prisoners in large number were being sent back by their captors. German wounded were also being taken back, and they included Prussian Guards, Grenadier Guards and Foot Guards.

During the bombardment on the 26th, and the succeeding barrage from midnight to 8 A. M., the First Army Artillery fired over 313,000 rounds. Capt. Bucklew, Sergt. Gattrell, and Corp. Vasey, on the first day, advanced to vicinity of Charpentry, on a reconnoissance, every effort being made to advance as far as possible, for the Hindenburg line had been broken, and the Kriemhilde line was bending.

The necessity of keeping ammunition moving forward, as thousands of rounds were being









ur wounded were removed.





spent, prevented movement of many vehicles over the shell torn roads and fields—so food must wait; then it was the packs of some dead soldiers afforded a few rations. The problem of moving guns and supplies during the first days' advances was one of the most difficult, because of the condition of the ground after four years of fighting, and roads which had not been used since 1914. Even if the roads had been in perfect condition they could not have accommodated the volume of traffic incident to such a large operation. During the days and nights that followed, the cannoneers and drivers helped the few remaining horses to move the guns and caissons through mud; Sergt. Ziegler and his section exerted every means to get the rolling kitchen and water cart forward.

Fighting in the air was in full swing, and it was at this time that the Germans sent two of the American observation balloons up in flames; one by a direct hit from their artillery, and the other from the machine gun of a German aviator. The onslaught made in the Argonne resulted in the Germans bringing their best troops from other parts of the line. Except on the extreme right, where it had reached the Army objective along the Meuse, the American front on the night of September 26th was approximately upon the Corps objective everywhere, but

still about five kilometers short of the Army objective, the attainment of which line was essential to the strangling out of the German hold of even the lower part of the Argonne forest; not to speak of the still more important object of arriving on the other flank, within striking distance of the Metz-Meziers railroad. The effects of surprise, and the opportunities for flanking operations, except tactically against local objectives, were now over, and there was nothing for it but to drive ahead with all the strength and determination possible, and force a way forward against the most bitter frontal resistance that the power of the German army could exert.

An incident, which will perhaps prove interesting, in recollection, was a trick to which one of the Allied batteries resorted. This particular battery had been stationed in a small clump of trees, and the Germans, being aware of their location and having the range and direction, fired on it at will. The night before an attack by the Allies, previous preparation having been made, the small clump of trees was cut, and with the battery was moved to a point one hundred meters east; the next day, when the Boche replied to the Allied offensive, they dropped several hundred shells in the spot where the battery and clump of trees had been—it was evident they were firing from their old data, and

if they had an observer, no doubt he was mistified at the ineffectiveness of their fire on this occasion.

The retreating Germans continued to shell the advancing troops. The Battery went into position for the night, amid barbed wire and captured German dugouts.

September 27th, the Battery again moved forward to a new position, on a hill in the open; the guns had only the screen camouflage to protect them from observation. The men lay in shell holes. Vauquois Hill, in the broken Hindenburg line, was to the right and rear; on the road up to this position the tanks large and small could be seen as they stopped, after having done their work of going through the wire ahead of the infantry. The country from which the Germans had fled, was thickly pockmarked with shell holes; here and there a large shell had torn a crater, sometimes as large as forty feet wide and fifteen feet deep. Looking over to Vauquois Hill, one could see where the large shells had gouged out the mountain, transplanting the dugouts to the bottom of the hill. It looked as if nothing could have lived through the destructive fire. On calls from the infantry, the Battery responded with H. E. shells on the retreating Germans; at one time the dough-boys were forced to fall back, but a timely bar-

rage saved the day. Robt. Cirkal was one member of the Battery detailed as a runner for liaison with the infantry, and his hazardous work was carried out with considerable credit.

The enemy made a counter attack the morning of the 28th, and after it had been repulsed by a barrage, the Americans pushed on, the right taking position north of Chaudron Farm, while the left cleared the Bois de Montebeau to its north edge, despite heavy cross fire from beyond the river Aire. The strong position of Exermont now lay in front, and preparations were made to attack it on the morning of the 29th. All the 75mm batteries of the 128th and 129th U. S. F. A., the 155mm batteries of the 130th U. S. F. A., one battalion of the 219th French Artillery, 317th French Artillery and the 451st French Artillery, preparing for, and supporting the attack. At one time, when several men were in close quarters, one asked why the shells were called "Whiz-bangs"; another replied, "if you hear the whiz only, you are no longer alive, but if you hear the whiz and the bang then you are alive; so they are only mentioned in this world as "Whiz-bangs." The Battery again moved forward, passing through Boureuilles, Cheppy, and to the north of Very. The country was an awful picture of No Man's Land; here and there, where once stood a village, were now only a

few walls and piles of debris remaining. On every side lay the gigantic spoils and salvage of war. German equipment lay in disordered piles with the American equipment lost in battle; the German dead lay among the Americans, their heads in the direction of the advance. The American infantry, machine gunners and engineers, bearing the brunt of the attack, were the first to fall; with equipment strapped to their backs, they lay where death had overtaken them. The German loss was large, entire batteries of 77mm's and immense stores of ammunition being captured; everything from Lugers and Mausers to playing cards and prayer books, were scattered on the way; many dugouts were just as the fleeing Germans had left them. In a dugout belonging to a German officer, hung orderly rows of clothing, and on a table was spread food and wine, just as it had been hurriedly left by its occupant.

Following quoted from Stars and Stripes:

"By the 29th of Sept. they had reinforced their front lines by the introduction of three more Divisions, so that on that date their order of battle stood, from the Meuse westward: CXVth Div., astride the Meuse; the VIIth Reserve Div., XXXVII Div., CXVIIIth Div., Ist Guard Div., Vth Div., XLVth Div., and IInd Landwehr Div., of which the Ist and Vth Prus-

sian Guard Divisions were immediately east of the Aire river."

At the position north of Very, the Battery was using nine different barrage tables on the Germans, for offensive and defensive purposes. The Germans, in falling back, adopted the defensive tactics of using machine gunners in the rear guards. These Hun nests, established in the Argonne forest, were difficult to destroy; when the infantry could not take them, they had to be blasted out by artillery.

Sept. 29th, the 35th Division had pushed beyond their objectives, and passed the neighboring divisions. The German artillery were now replying with heavy fire to our artillery, showing that they were attempting to make a stand. Huge fires could be seen behind their lines, destruction of property being more desirable to them than the capture of it by the Allies. German aeroplanes were making desperate attempts to get over the American lines but at almost every attempt they would lose a plane or two; in some instances their aviators flew close enough to exchange shots with troops on the ground.

After seven days of fierce fighting, in which infantry companies were reduced to 50% of their strength, it became necessary for the 35th Division to have relief because of casualties.

The 1st Division relieved the Missouri and Kansas boys, the Battery moving to the rear at 2 A. M., October 3rd, our artillery supporting the 1st Div. infantry until their own artillery came up. A march of ninety kilometers brought the organization to Erize-la-Brulee on October 6th, six kilometers from Bar-le-duc. The men were billeted in barns and lofts for rest and recovery, after the strenuous days at the front—out of range of bursting shells, they took a new view of life. It was a relief for them to see smiling faces again, instead of battling humans bent on destruction. The men were decootized at a French Red Cross bath house, and new clothing issued to those who had come in contact with gas but had not been seriously burned. In being sent to “rest billets,” the men felt that this was a misnomer, for they thought they did everything but rest.

The following is quoted from statements made in Washington, D. C., by General Peter E. Traub, who commanded the 35th Div. in the Argonne. (Kansas City Star, February 20th, 1919.)

“In five days and five nights my division advanced against three of the finest “boche” divisions in the entire Hun army for a distance of 12 and one-half kilometers, taking positions that had baffled the French four years and



which they had pronounced impregnable, taking more than one thousand prisoners, twenty-four pieces or artillery, eighty-five machine guns, one hundred anti-tank guns and much other war material; they advanced in the most exposed sector of the entire battle front against artillery fire concentrated on them from the surrounding crests, almost perfect observation posts, and did it at a loss of life that under the circumstances of the battle was marvellously low. My men did what they were told to do. General Traub said that the dead in the battle as reported to him a few days after the battle was a little more than five hundred, which afterwards was increased by deaths from wounds, and that the total wounded did not exceed 4,500 (he added he thought that 4,300 represented more nearly the mark) and that more than half of these wounded were of the slightly wounded class, so that they returned to duty in a short while after the battle."

As observations on the Battery alone would not properly bring out the operations in which we were a part, it is deemed best to quote extracts here from the report of General Pershing to the Secretary of War as published:

"On the day after we had taken the St. Mihiel



salient, much of our corps and army artillery which had operated at St. Mihiel, and our divisions in reserve at other points, were already on the move toward the area back of the line between the Meuse River and the western edge of the forest of Argonne. With the exception of St. Mihiel, the old German front line from Switzerland to the east of Rheims was still intact. In the general attack planned all along the line, the operation assigned the American Army as the hinge of this Allied offensive, was directed toward the important railroad communications of the German armies through Mezieres and Sedan. The enemy must hold fast to this part of his lines or the withdrawal of his forces with four years' accumulation of plants and material would be dangerously imperiled.

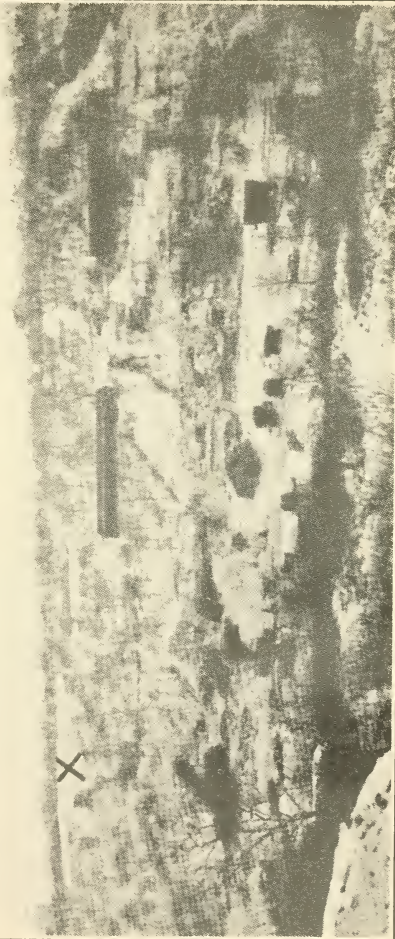
"The German Army had as yet shown no demoralization and, while the mass of its troops had suffered in morale, its first class divisions and notably its machine gun defense were exhibiting remarkable tactical efficiency as well as courage. The German General Staff was fully aware of the consequences of a success on the Meuse-Argonne line. Certain that he would do everything in his power to oppose us, the action was planned with as much secrecy as possible and was undertaken with the determination to use all our divisions in forcing a decis-

ion. We expected to draw the best German divisions to our front and consume them while the enemy was held under grave apprehension lest our attack should break his line, which it was our firm purpose to do.

“Our right flank was protected by the Meuse, while our left embraced the Argonne forest, whose ravines, hills, and elaborate defenses screened by dense thickets had been generally considered impregnable. Our order of battle from right to left was the Third Corps from the Meuse to Malancourt, with the 33rd, 80th, and 4th Divisions in line, and the 3rd Div. as Corps reserve; the 5th Corps from Malancourt to Vauquois, with the 70th, 37th and 91st Div. in line, and the 32nd Div. in Corps reserve; and the First Corps from Vauquois to Vienne-le-Chateau, with the 35th, 28th and 77th Div. in line and the 92nd in Corps reserve. The army reserve consisted of the 1st, 29th and 82nd Div.

“On the night of September 25th our troops quietly took the place of the French who thinly held the line in this sector which had long been inactive. In the attack which began on the 26th we drove through the barbed wire entanglements and the sea of shell craters across No Man’s Land mastering all the first line defenses. Continuing on the 27th and 28th, against machine guns and artillery of an increasing num-

**X Position of 2nd Battalion  
in Orchard above Very**





ber of enemy reserve divisions, we penetrated to a depth of from three to seven miles and took the village of Montfaucon and its commanding hill, and Exermont, Gercourt, Cuisy, Septsarges, Milancourt, Ivory, Epinonville, Charpentry, Very and other villages. East of the Meuse, one of our divisions which was with the Second Colonial French Corps captured Marcheville and Rieville giving further protection to the flank of our main body. We had taken 10,000 prisoners, we had gained our point of forcing the battle into the open, and were prepared for the enemy's reaction which was bound to come as he had good roads and ample railroad facilities for bringing up his artillery and reserves.

"In the chill rain of dark nights our engineers had to build new roads across spongy, shell torn areas, repair broken roads beyond No Man's Land, and build bridges. Our gunners, with no thought of sleep, put their shoulders to wheels and drag-ropes to bring their guns through the mire in support of the infantry now under the increasing fire of the enemy's artillery. Our attack had taken the enemy by surprise, but, quickly recovering himself, he began fierce counter attacks in strong force supported by heavy bombardments with large quantities of gas. From September 28th to October 4th we maintained the offensive against patches of

woods defended by snipers and continuous lines of machine guns, and pushed forward our guns and transport, seizing strategical points in preparation for further attacks. \* \* It was now necessary to constitute a Second Army, and on Oct. 10th the immediate command of the First Army was turned over to Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett. The Command of the Second Army, whose divisions occupied a sector in the Woevre, was given to Lieutenant General Robt. L. Bullard, who had been commander of the Ist Division and then of the Third Corps.\* \* Our constant pressure against the enemy brought day by day more prisoners, mostly survivors from machine gun nests captured in fighting at close quarters. On October 18th there was very fierce fighting in the Caures woods east of the Meuse and in the Ormont wood. On the 14th the First Corps took St. Juvin, and the Fifth Corps, by hand to hand encounters, entered the formidable Kriemhilde line where the enemy had hoped to check us indefinitely. Later the Fifth Corps penetrated further the Kriemhilde line, and the First Corps took Champigneulles and the important town of Grand Pre. Our dogged offensive wearing down the enemy, who continued desperately to throw his best troops against us, thus weakening his line in front of our Allies and making their advances less dif-

ficult. \* \* On the 6th a division of the First Corps reached a point on the Meuse opposite Sedan, 25 miles from our line of departure. The strategical goal which was our highest hope was gained. We had cut the enemy's main line of communications and nothing but surrender or an armistice could save his army from complete disaster.

"In all 44 enemy divisions had been used against us in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Between September 26th and November 6th we took 16,059 prisoners and 468 guns on this front. Our divisions engaged were: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 26th 28th, 29th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th, 37th, 42nd, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 82nd, 89th, 90th, 91st. Many of our divisions remained in line for a length of time that required nerves of steel, while others were sent in again after only a few days of rest. \* \* On the three days preceeding November 10th, the Third Corps and the Second Colonial and Seventeenth French Corps fought a difficult struggle through the Meuse hills south of Stenay and forced the enemy into the plain. Meanwhile, my plans for further use of the American forces contemplated an advance between the Meuse and Moselle in the direction of Longwy by the First Army, while at the same time the Second Army should assume the offensive toward the rich iron fields



of Briey. These operations were to be followed by an offensive toward Chateau-Salins east of the Moselle, thus isolating Metz. Accordingly, attacks on the American front had been ordered, and that of the Second Army was in progress on the morning of November 11th, when instructions were received that hostilities should cease at 11 o'clock A. M. \* \* Finally, I pay the supreme tribute to our officers and soldiers of the line. When I think of their heroism, their patience under hardship, their unflinching spirit of offensive action, I am filled with emotion which I am unable to express. Their deeds are immortal, and they have earned the eternal gratitude of our country.

"I am, Mr. Secretary,

Very respectfully,

John J. Pershing,

General, Commander-in-Chief, A. E. F."

October 12th, after having a brief six days at Erize-la-Brulee, we were ordered to move to the front again. The route went through Pierfette, Courovre, Souilly and to Sommedieu on the right of Verdun. October 15th the Battery took over the Sommedieu position from the French. This was eleven kilometers southeast of Verdun. The Allies had the heights, while the Ger-



man position stretched out beyond the plain below. No Man's Land was a marsh waste, with here and there an almost totally destroyed village. German aeroplanes were busy continually on observation duty, so that good camouflage discipline had to be observed to keep from revealing our gun positions to the enemy. The German batteries were repeatedly hammering this sector, searching out the roads and woods with shell fire; mustard gas caused severe casualties to our infantry on this front. The Battery firing was in accordance with the plan of the sector, on calls from the infantry during the first days in this position; a star shell by night or telephone call at anytime would find the artillery ready with the necessary barrage. With good firing data, objects in enemy territory such as ammunition dumps, buildings and cross roads were picked out and destroyed.

The following is quoted, from an order of the commander of the Fifth German Army, General Von der Marwitz, secured by intelligence officers which shows the importance the Germans attached to holding this front: "It is on the unconquerable resistance of the Verdun front that depends the fate of a great part of the Western Front, perhaps even of our nation. The Fatherland must rest assured that every commander and every man realize the greatness of his mis-

sion, and that he will do his duty to the very end; if they do this the enemy's attack will, as heretofore, break against our firm will to hold."

November 3rd, after heavy losses in men, from a recent gas attack, the 35th Division infantry was relieved by the 81st Div. infantry. The artillery of the 81st Division was not with their infantry, so we continued the support of this division and spent the last days of active warfare with them in the offensive on the Woevre plain, below the hills outside Verdun in the direction of Metz. Battery E felt proud to have been selected as one of the batteries to accompany the infantry, and the last three were very uncertain days. November 10th, after a preparatory barrage the 81st Division infantry went over the top, and though there were rumors of an armistice there was no official information on the subject; so the fight was as fierce as it had ever been. The Germans fought just as violently as before, and severe losses were inflicted. Mention of this period is found in the extract from "Operations Report" in chapter III.

The following is a copy of the order to cease hostilities as received by Capt. Bucklew at 10:20 A. M., November 11th, twelve kilometers east of Verdun, on the Verdun-Metz road during the attack on the Woevre plain:

Headquarters 128th F. A.,  
11th Nov., 1918.

Warning message from Job 11.

Hostilities will cease on whole front at 11 hour this morning, Nov. 11, 1918.

Troops will not pass the line obtained at that period.

Outguards will be established at this hour and no intercourse with the enemy allowed.

The line obtained will be carefully marked.

Enemy soldiers may be received as prisoners, but no communication with the enemy will be permitted, either before or after cessation of hostilities.

Further orders will be transmitted.

Chief of Staff.

Received by Col. Warner 8:25 A. M.

Transmitted through 2nd Battalion Hdqrs.  
128th F. A.

Battery E fired its last round fifteen minutes before 11 o'clock, but the general firing did not cease until the last minute; the quiet, which we had not known for so long, was awe-inspiring. There was a feeling that thanks should be given and a thought expressed for those who had "gone West". The attacking forces had succeeded in crossing the big marsh, and the lines were marked.

## SERVICE CHEVRONS

You can strip him of his chevrons,  
    You can take his stripes away,  
And the badge of his division,  
    Which produces your dismay,  
You can make him scrap his medals,  
    But, no matter how you try,  
You can never, never legislate  
    That glitter from his eye.  
He has seen a summer day  
    That you have never dreamed,  
He has seen flesh turn to clay,  
    While affronted Heaven screamed;  
He has seen the shattered trench,  
    He has seen the twisted wire,  
He has seen strong, living men  
    Charred and black in molten fire;  
He has seen beneath his feet  
    Flesh of comrades turned to clay,  
As you never could have dreamed.

He has seen a summer day.

You can ban the golden arrow  
That is stitched on his right sleeve,  
And eradicate distinction  
With a simple "by your leave";  
Promulgate your resolutions,  
Hurl the ink until you die,  
But you can't esponge his mem'ry  
Nor the glitter from his eye.

He has seen an autumn night  
That you could never bear,  
With hell's fire his only light,  
Pointing out hell's angel there;

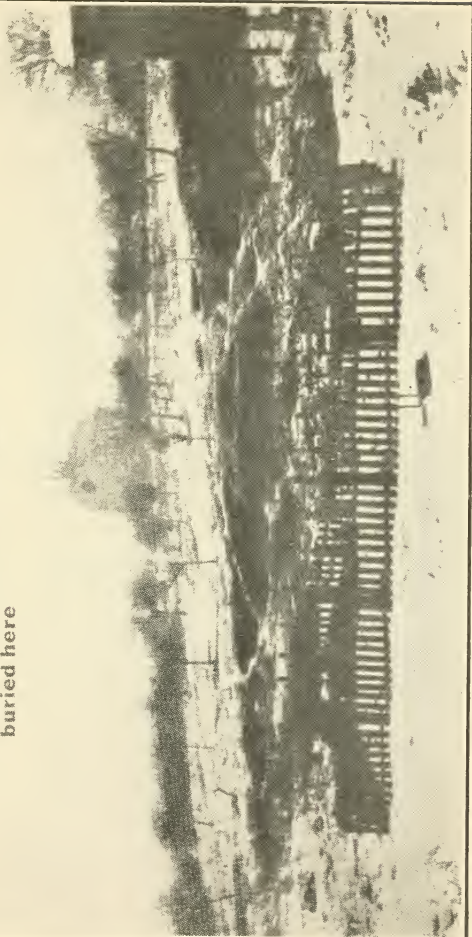
He has known a single hour  
When cold steel, red hail and gas  
Ceased and left a holy calm  
Such as come when angels pass;

He has seen his comrades stand  
Half transfigured in release,  
Knighted, spurred and panoplied  
By their liege lord, the Prince of Peace.

—Artillerist in "Stars and Stripes."



Graveyard in courtyard at Charpentry  
Men from 128 F. A. and 129 F. A.  
buried here







## CHAPTER VI.

### From Armistice to Discharge.

The following is an extract from *Stars and Stripes* of February 14th, 1919:—quoted so the activities just preceeding the Armistice will be made clear.

“Further light was thrown this week on the great unfought battle of the war, the Allied offensive of November 14th in Lorraine which would have forced the evacuation of Metz, and to avoid which the German general staff put up its hands. It may now be stated that the American divisions summoned for that battle were—taking them as they were lined up from left to right when the fighting stopped—the 7th, 28th, 33rd, 92nd, 4th, 35th and 88th \* \* an article just published in the *Journal des Debats* by Henry Bidou, the French military critic.

“In support of his argument that the Germans collapsed because of a genuine military defeat, Mr. Bidou says:

“It is no secret that the French Army had prepared for November 14th a last attack entrusted to General Mangin between Metz and Strasbourg in the general direction of Sarrebruck. This attack, by a development northward, would have cut the lines of operation of the German armies and, separating them from the Rhine, would have driven them to certain capitulation.

#### Forces Present for Battle

“In this battle, perhaps the gravest in history, what were the forces present? I am authorized to publish the figures. On the Allied side, there were 25 divisions, 19 French and 6 American; on the German side, there were four divisions, two of them Landwehr. When stupefied by this inequality, I asked what at least were the reserves the German General Staff had at its command, I was told: ‘Zero’. I asked what they could bring from other fronts where they had been so severely engaged; again I was told: ‘Zero.’

“That was the actual situation at the beginning of November. The German general staff was on the eve of a nameless disaster. It had already prepared the evacuation of Metz. But that was not enough. Sure of being unable to

resist, it put down its arms and saved the debris of its army by the armistice of November 11th, which was a genuine military capitulation. Germany, thus on the eve of the most inevitable and most irreparable defeat, escaped from it by giving up the fight, dropping its sword and crying 'Enough.' Was it well done to grant this? That is not up for discussion here. But for anyone to come forward now with a claim that she was not whipped, that is either the most prodigious ignorance or the boldest imposture.'

"According to Mr. Bidou, the people of the Rhineland honestly believe that the German army emerged unbeaten from the war and that the causes of the collapse were internal, both political and economic. He points out that, as a matter of fact, the German army was soundly beaten on July 15th, again on July 18th, again on August 8th and thereafter suffered a succession of disasters throughout August, September and October.

"From July to October, the German army lost the enormous total of 400,000 prisoners. It left on the field a quarter of its total artillery, 5,000 guns. Toward October 20th, the last 17 divisions engaged had all been led back to the fire after less than three days' rest. The jumble of

units, not only of divisions and regiments, but of battalions, was unbelievable."

The Battery remained in the vicinity of the position it occupied November 11th, called Camp Massa until January 21st, 1919. This period was very trying on every one, the monotony being broken at times by inspections, care of horses, material and practice marches.

Colonel Taylor took command of the regiment while we were in this sector, but he was ordered to Germany when we were ordered home; as there was not much to do, we had that good-natured grumbling in which men indulge when there is not much cause for it—the grumbling is in the inverse ratio to the cause—in other words the more comfortable they were, and the less they had to do, the more some are inclined to grumble; while during long marches in the rain and darkness, when rations were short they frequently saw the funny side of many things and joked about them. We wanted to go on into Germany or go home, but many weeks dragged on with us in the area of destroyed towns and soldiers' cemeteries—so the holidays passed; we provided most of our own amusements and made the best of the situation. Some were able to get away to "leave areas" and saw something of other parts of France.

## Thanksgiving 1918

November's misty sunshine on the streets of  
Paris lay;  
The colors of all the Allies from window and  
wall were gay;  
There was laughter and joy in plenty, as, under  
the autumn sky,  
I saw, through the Arch of Triumph, the Stars  
and Stripes go by.

By a band of martial music the fluttering flag  
was led,  
And the column of drab-clad soldiers with a rapid,  
rhythmic tread;  
And the passing throng of Paris stood rigid,  
with eyes aflame,  
As under the Arch of Triumph my country's  
banner came.

And the hush that was on the people found echo  
in my breast;  
It beat with a deep thanksgiving that our flag  
from the golden west  
In the fight for human freedom had borne so  
brave a share,  
And wherever the wind unfurls it the heads of  
men are bare;

That the lads of our drab-clad armies at Trugny  
and Montfaucon,  
On the flaming slopes of Mezy, in the hell of  
the deep Argonne,  
Had fought with as fine a courage for the lands  
where the Hun had trod  
As the men of the elder decades who fought  
for their native sod.

For now, through the misty sunshine that veiled  
the queenly town,  
The bronze men over the archway on the passing  
flag looked down—  
The men of Lodi and Jena, and it seemed that  
their haughty glance  
Said: "Flag of the Great Republic, thou, too,  
art at home in France;

"Thou hast won the right in glory on the fields  
where thy arms have gleamed  
To stand with our own Tricolor henceforth in  
the hearts of a race redeemed."  
Then the martial music quickened and, a flame  
on the misty sky,  
From the shade of the Arch of Triumph the  
Stars and Stripes went by.

J. M. Hanson, Capt., F. A.

Our first move homeward was made when we left Camp Massa, marching through Pierfette and Loxeville to billet in an old factory at Cousances, eleven kilometers from Commercy. We had shelter here and a fair home. On the 4th of February the guns were turned in at Souhme and on February 19th the horses delivered to the 33rd Division; this relieved us of considerable routine work.

While in this area the Division was reviewed by General Pershing and the Prince of Wales. The following is an extract from the Kansas City Star relative to this event: "Members of the 35th Division in France have been reviewed by General Pershing and the Prince of Wales. Gen. Pershing made them a fine speech, praised them highly for their bravery and endurance in the Argonne Battle, and then bade them goodbye, wishing them a safe voyage across the ocean and a warm welcome by their loved ones at home.

"The Prince of Wales then made a speech, and when he finished the boys of Missouri and Kansas cheered him almost as loudly as they did their own General Pershing \* \*

"The Meuse River from Commercy to St. Mihiel and Verdun, perhaps farther, has cut a valley a half mile wide through a range of hills. Imagine yourself standing on a bluff and

looking across the river directly below you, and there seeing fifteen to twenty thousand troops lined in battalion formation, platoon front, seven hundred and fifty to one thousand men in a battalion, and you will get an idea of the magnificent spectacle we saw yesterday. \* \*

"It was then 1:30 and the troops had been assembling since 10 o'clock, so some of them had been waiting for more than three hours—standing in the rain, carrying field packs, gas masks and rifles and wearing their field helmets.

\* \* When the mounted party of twenty or thirty officers and orderlies, General Pershing and the Prince in the lead, had reached a position directly in front-centre of the division, the party halted, and the band played 'My Country 'Tis of Thee' while general, prince and private saluted. The reviewing party rode up and down in front of the division and entirely around the troops \* \* the party then dismounted, the horses were led off to the division's left and the party on foot began a complete inspection of the troops—rank by rank. This required nearly two hours.

"At last, about four o'clock, the last file had been inspected. \* \* Then we heard the impressive strains of a march and a sharp command, unusually clear at that distance, probably three-



quarters of a mile—"Squads right! March! \* \*

"From where I stood you could not see the step of any individual soldier, with the impressive result that each batallion seemed to be a solid mass, moving slowly as if impelled by some unseen power, the whole conveying an impression of tremendous might.

"Pershing and the prince in front, and the other mounted officers directly behind, received the salutes and 'Eyes right!' as the twenty batallions passed in review.

"When the last file had moved past, the division halted and all the officers, from lieutenants to generals, were called to hear a talk by Pershing, who with his party had now dismounted. \* \*

"He is not an orator, but he is an effective speaker, his earnest, forceful manner making up for any faults in style. He put all his vigor into his brief address, emphasizing his statements with sharp gestures, made with clenched fists, leaning toward the officers to drive home his points, and speaking with an intensely earnest voice and manner. His address was extemporaneous, but it was not in the nature of orders to subordinates, but was a talk, man to man. He said, in part:

" 'I am glad of this opportunity to say a few

words to the officers, and through the officers to the men of this excellent division.

“The 35th Division made an enviable record in its comparatively short time in the Zone of action, and it has shown up splendidly in the review today.

“You are going home, and in a short time you will have the joy of seeing your loved ones again.

“The hardships of this war have been tremendous, and we have all come through the struggle at least a little the better men for it.

“We have gained inspiration, and I trust that you officers and the men of this division will use that inspiration in your future life.

“There is one thing I trust you will not do, and that is be misled by certain persons at home who seek to make political capital out of the conduct of this war.

“There have been hardships, but we expect that in war. I have no patience with the carping critics, who whine about various unavavoidable difficulties that soldiers must face.

“I have nothing but contempt for the man who cries because there was no sugar in his coffee or because this or that did not suit him.

\* \*

“We do not mean to boast or brag, and we pay tribute to our great allies, but it is a fact

that we came into this struggle at the critical time and your courage, your strength, your endurance, your dauntless daring and tremendous power crushed the enemy.

“ ‘So that when you go home you may know that you deserve the welcome and gratitude of the country.

“ ‘I don’t know what your plans are for the future, but whatever they may be I take this opportunity of wishing you success, and I wish the division good luck on its trip home.

“ ‘The 35th Division comes from my part of the country, and I am proud of the record you have made.’

“When Pershing ended his remarks someone yelled: ‘Three cheers for Pershing,’ and they were given by the officers and spectators with a roar, and the division troops, who were still in formation off to the left, spontaneously took up the cheer as if to show the general they did not want him to forget them. Pershing waved his hand in token of appreciation.

“The officers were starting to return to their commands when Pershing signaled for attention and said: ‘We have with us today a distinguished guest who has greatly enjoyed this review, and I want you to meet him. I have the honor and pleasure to introduce to you the Prince of Wales.’

"The prince, who, with General Bullard and other officers of the reviewing party, had stood at one side during Pershing's talk, now came forward, saluted with the peculiar British style, and said: 'The 35th Division first trained in Europe with British troops, and we were awfully sorry when you left us. You have fought well, and I am glad to have been with you today.'

"The prince looks and acts like a Boy Scout about 17 years old, though today's papers say he is 25.

"Evidently he wasn't looking to be asked for a speech, and he was very nervous and kept clawing at the belt of his trench coat. He talks with the typical British accent and a British choice of words and manner. But he is not at all 'stuck on himself,' and his frank, open actions made a hit. He was smoking a cigarette when Pershing called on him, and as soon as he had bowed to end his talk he lit another one with a match from a gold match-box. Three rousing cheers were also given for the prince."

Another lap of the homeward journey was begun on March 6th, when the Battery hiked sixteen kilometers to Tronville with full pack, entraining in American box cars for the Le Mans area on the 7th; the route included Troyes, Bourges, Tours to LeMans. On the 8th of March the Battery was billeted at Savigne-L'

Eveque (12 kilometers from Le Mans) at Chateau Martrie owned by the Boitelle family. The large grounds were beautiful; an artificial lake and several buildings on the property. The stables near the Chateau were substantial buildings and make good billets for part of the Battery. Many years ago the father of the present owner was interested with the Vanderbilts in thoroughbred horses, and the metal plates over the stalls in the stables showed the many trophies which had been won. We had ball grounds and most of the time was given to recreation and preparation for final inspection.

The Battery marched away from this place during a snow storm March 30th, and hiked 20 kilometers to Corneille, but owing to delayed trains the start for Brest was not made until 4:30 P. M. of the 31st. April 1st, the seaport of Brest was reached. The camp here was an immense city of tents accommodating 60,000 embarking troops; huge kitchens could feed a regiment every ten minutes; things were done on a grand scale and efficiency was the watchword. Rules of the camp were rigidly enforced—decootizing baths and pack inspections were gone through. The only real work was that of large day and night details for kitchen work.

April 11th proved to be the eventful day, the organization marching to the dock and boarding

the R. M. S. Vedic, as each man answered to the last roll call in France. Some were disappointed because we did not draw an American transport, but this could be overlooked as we were on our way home. The ship left Brest at 5:30 P. M., while the receding shores of France brought back many memories of hardships endured, battles won and brave comrades lost, never to return. The second day out a bad storm was encountered and the "Vedic," not having a heavy cargo, rocked like a cork; the seasick had to endure two more storms before the end of the voyage. We were able to make but fifty miles in twenty-four hours during one of these storms.

April 22nd, land was sighted and the ship-steamed into the harbor of Boston. The men were wild with joy at seeing the good old U. S. A. again. The Boston Committee of Welcome met the 'Vedic' in an excursion boat and threw over a barrage of candy, tobacco and doughnuts. Music and cheers alternated until the last soldier was aboard the N. Y., N. H. & H. cars bound for Camp Devens at Ayers, 42 miles from Boston. More decootizing baths were given here. No work or details were required of the men, it being an ideal camp for home-coming soldiers. The Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., K. of C. and









Battery E, 128th Field Artillery, A. R. F., Camp Devens, Mass., April, 1919.



the Jewish Welfare Board held open house for anyone wearing a uniform.

April 27th, the Battery was split up into different detachments Missouri-Kansas and Texas men; the Texas men bade goodbye to old friends and left for their Texas camp; the Missouri and Kansas men entrained for Camp Funston at Ft. Riley, Kansas, April 29th, the 128th Field Artillery paraded in St. Louis, the home of most of the men. The returning troops were received with open arms. In the downtown district the crowd was so great that the column of squads had to march single file in places. Several hours were given the soldiers to meet their friends and relatives while refreshments were being served. The next day the train passed through Kansas City and stopped several hours.

Extract from Kansas City Star April 30, 1919.

"An 'orphan' with many mothers, fathers, wives and sweethearts, is Battery E, 128th Field Artillery, a Kansas City unit which stopped three hours at the Union Station early today. Nearly one thousand relatives and relatives-to-be were on the station platform when the second section of the train bearing the 128th, F. A. pulled in at 7:35 o'clock this morning.

"Kansas City's battery of the 128th Regiment F. A., did not parade here because no orders had been received permitting it. The men want-

ed to. They would have liked to march down Grand Ave. and show the home folks how the 'best battery in the 128th' looked and acted. But orders are orders and Capt. Leslie L. Bucklew, the commander, had to content his men with visiting among their relatives on the station platform.

"There were tears and cheers—and later hugs and kisses. When the train reached the yards the men were hanging from the windows and when the Union Station was reached the Kansas City artillerymen dropped to the platform and dashed into the arms of awaiting mothers, fathers, wives and sweethearts with the *esprit de corps* they unlimbered, going into action.

"Because of its isolation, Battery E received little publicity during the war. Many persons in Kansas City never heard of the organization, 80 percent of which was recruited here. But, nevertheless, the Germans heard a lot from them—in fact, the battery was just as free in spreading American 'propaganda' behind the Hun lines as was Kansas City's own, the 129th.

On Friday, May 2nd, forty-eight hours after the arrival at Funston, the battery was mustered out. Friends of twenty-one months' army service parted with a feeling of regret. The next day the 129th F. A. and part of Battery E paraded through the streets of Kansas City and

to Convention Hall; here they had a generous dinner, and met old friends. Soldier comrades said good-bye, perhaps forever. Thus "The Orphan Battery" was disbanded, but members meeting here and there will give the hearty handshake and always remember with pleasure old times; not forgetting a thought for those who have "gone West" as well as comrades in sanitariums suffering from that dread disease resulting from poison gas.

May our reunions be well attended, so we can have a hearty chorus to again sing "The Four of Us," also that famous artillery song, to enjoy the thrill—

"Over hill, over dale, as we hit the dusty trail  
And the caissons go rolling along."

THE END





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